

# GENEALOGY COLLECTION

مَنْ يَرْجُوا  
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مَلَكَ الْجَنَّاتِ



HANLEY AND THE HOUSE OF  
LECHMERE.

“ The Honours of a Name 'tis just to guard :  
They are a Trust but lent us, which we take,  
And should, in Reverence to the Donor's Fame,  
With Care transmit them down to other Hands.”

HANLEY<sup>c</sup>

AND THE

HOUSE OF LECHMERE.



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TO THE MEMORY OF SIR EDMUND HUNGERFORD LECHMERE,  
SECOND BARONET, OF THE RHYD, IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER,  
HIS HONOURED FATHER IN LAW,  
A BRIGHT EXAMPLE OF THE ACCOMPLISHED AND CHRISTIAN  
GENTLEMAN,  
THIS SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF HIS FAMILY AND OF THE ANCIENT SEAT  
OF HIS ANCESTORS,  
MAINLY REGAINED BY HIS OWN UNSELFISH LABOURS,  
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED  
BY  
EVELYN PHILIP SHIRLEY.



## PREFACE.

THE hand of Death has removed the writer of these pages, which were nearly ready for the press when he was called to his rest, and it remains for a member of the family whose ancient seat is described, to place this, the last work of an accomplished antiquary and genealogist, as well as a high-bred English gentleman, before the public.

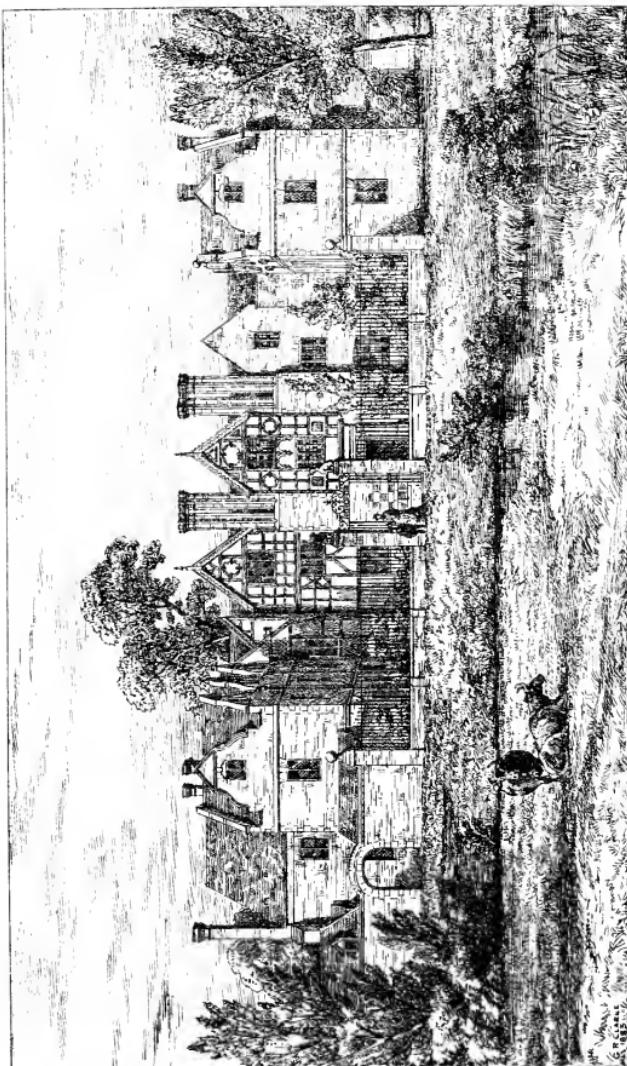
It was originally intended to be printed privately only, for the immediate use of the numerous visitors to the old seat of the Lechmeres, at Hanley Castle, in Worcestershire; but it was thought that his last work would possess an interest to the numerous friends and acquaintances who knew the writer, and who would regard it, slight and unimportant as it may appear in comparison with the former well-known productions of his facile and accurate pen, as something beyond a mere ephemeral contribution to local and family history.

Mr. Shirley's alliance with a member of the Lechmere family had made him familiar with all the associations which cluster round the interesting old mansion which had been for so many years its ancestral home; but a good deal of the material of the memoir was supplied by the diary of Sir Nicholas Lechmere, and by the manuscript reminiscences of the late

Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere, the father of the present owner of the property.

It is hoped that whilst this little work may fulfil the object for which it was designed by its author, it may tend to secure additional interest in a relic of the past, which has not yielded to modern improvement, and at the same time to perpetuate the loved memory of one whose regard for everything connected with the family whose history he has thus briefly traced, will ever be cherished by those who survive him.





EASTERN FRONT OF SEVERN END

## HANLEY AND THE HOUSE OF LECHMERE.



In a rising bank not far from the River Severn, in the parish of Hanley-Castle, in the county of Worcester, is a venerable house, the original seat of the ancient family of LECHMERE, now called SEVERN-END, but formerly LECHMERE'S PLACE, or LECHMERE'S FIELD, a site said to have been in their possession from very early times, and to have been given, so says Tradition, by King William the Conqueror to the ancestor of this family.<sup>1</sup> The parish of Hanley-Castle, so called from the Castle of the Beauchamps,

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<sup>1</sup> The tradition, according to the late Sir Edmund Lechmere, was, that the original Grant, described as small, with a large pendant seal, was discovered at Severn End in his grandfather, Mr. Edmund Lechmere's, time, and afterwards came into the possession of his eldest son, Mr. Lechmere Charlton, who had it at Ludford, as he told Sir Edmund himself. Judge Lechmere, however, as appears by his letter to Habington, the Worcestershire antiquary, hereafter quoted, p. 47, gives a different account, and refers to "*an authentick record in flaunder*," a copy of which he wished to be inserted in Habington's book, but which is not now known to be extant.

Earls of Warwick, and afterwards of the Clares, Earls of Gloucester, which stood, says Leland, “a flite shotte from Severne,” belonged after the Conquest, as we learn from the Domesday Survey, to Gislebert, the son of Turold, and was held under him by Roger and Hugh.

The earliest recorded ancestor of the Lechmeres is “*Reginald de Lechmere de Hanlee*,” father of Adam de Lechmere de Hanlee; they are mentioned in a deed without date of which there is a note in the College of Arms:<sup>1</sup> this must have been about the period of Edward I., after which time deeds were generally dated. A manuscript of Dr. Thomas, quoted by Nash in his “History of Worcestershire” (vol. i., p. 560), observes of the Lechmeres: “This family came out of the Low Countries, served under William the Conqueror, and obtained lands in Hanley, called from them Lechmere’s Place and Lechmere’s Field; Lech is a branch of the Rhine, which parts from it at Wyke, in the province of Utrecht, and running westward falls into the Maes before you come to Rotterdam.”

Some foundation for the supposed foreign origin of the name, is derived from the fact that all the earlier ancestors of the Lechmeres used the prefix *de*, which was afterwards dropped, and as, with the exception of *Lechmere Heath* in Hertfordshire, there is no place of the name in England, we

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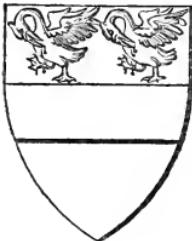
<sup>1</sup> C. 30, p. 28. “Ex evidentiis M<sup>r</sup> Edm: Lechmere de Hanley Castle Com: Wigorn:”

may, perhaps, conclude that Dr. Thomas's theory is the right one. There can be no reasonable doubt that the progenitor of the venerable House of Lechmere was seated in the parish of Hanley not long after the Conquest, and, after all, it may not be impossible that he was the Roger who held under Gislebert at the time of the Domesday Survey.

The arms which have been, since the fifteenth century, appropriated to this family, are *Gules a fess, and in chief two pelicans vulning themselves or.* This coat may be taken as an early instance of what is called canting Heraldry, *Lech* in old Breton, meaning love, and *mere*, of course, mother,—a play upon the name, symbolized by the pelican wounding herself, and feeding her young with her blood. A religious application was afterwards given to this emblem, and the motto **CHRISTUS PELICANO** appears to have been assumed by Thomas Lechmere in the reign of Henry VII.

The precise sequence of the earlier descents of the Lechmeres cannot be accurately ascertained, though several pedigrees have been attempted by the Heralds.

In the reign of Edward I., as appears by an original Taxation Roll for a fifteenth in the possession of Sir Edmund Lechmere, I find three of his ancestors taxed at Hanley respectively at *ij<sup>s</sup>.*, *v<sup>s</sup>.*, and *xx<sup>d</sup>.*—Reginald de Lettemere, Philip de Lettemere, and Richard de Lechmere: the second name is erased. Under Powick also in this Roll is preserved the



name of Henry Letshimore, taxed at xx<sup>d</sup>. Robert, called Wilkyn de Lechmere, was of Hanley in the third of Edward II. Henry, Alice, John, and William occur in the reign of Edward III. The last was father of Robert, and grandfather of John Lechmere of Lechmere's Place; his son was Richard

Lechmere impaling, *vert  
fretty or,  
Whitmore.*



Lechmere of Hanley in the reign of Henry VI., who married Joan, co-heir of John Whitmore, who had lands also in Hanley. They appear to have been the parents of John and Thomas Lechmere. The last was of Hanley in the reign of Henry VII. He married Elianor, daughter of Humphry

Frere; they had a son Richard, living in the twenty-third of Henry VIII., who married Margaret Rock, and was the ancestor of all the future Lechmers. Of Thomas Lechmere and his descendants, the celebrated Judge, Sir Nicholas Lechmere, has preserved an interesting account, still remaining in MS.<sup>1</sup> in the possession of his representative, Sir Edmund Lechmere, and which I will now proceed to quote:

“ Thomas Lechmere my Father’s great grandfather married Elianor daughter of Humfrey Frere of Blankets in the parish of Claines in the County of Wor<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Anne his Wife daughter of Richard Walsh of Sheldisley Walsh in the same County Esq<sup>r</sup>.<sup>2</sup> They had issue Richard theyr

<sup>1</sup> A large 4to. in parchment, about 13 inches square. Only 18 leaves are filled.

<sup>2</sup> Frere of Blankets. See the pedigree of this family in the “Herald and

eldest soñe, and Roger Lechmere<sup>1</sup> of fanhope in the county of Hereford second soñe, frō w<sup>ch</sup> Roger are descended the Lechmeres of fanhope. This Elianor was first married to one Leth, and afterwards to Thomas Lechmere. Shee was borne at Blanketts 22 April 1474, and her Godmothers and Godfather were Elianor Hampton Johanna Habingdon S<sup>r</sup> Walter Frances and another woman whose name I cañot reade for all this I find written by Humfrey frere himself in a parchment booke in my posseſſion."

" My great grandfather Richard Lechmere married Margery one of the daughters and coheires of Thomas Rocke of Ripple a Lawyer. Hee feemes to have been a discreet man and of good esteeme, and commended (even to my daies) for his hospitality, and eminently taken notice of to have been of a gentle behavior. Hee was of great stature. Hee died March. 23. 1568. and is buried in Hanley Church close by the Ministers reading pew.

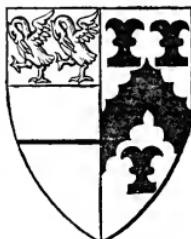
" My great grandmother Margery Lechmere died 30.

*Genealogist*, vol. v., p. 429. Where, however, this Elianor does not appear.

<sup>1</sup> " Rogerus Lechmere in uxorem duxit Annam Cottrell, viceſſimo die Julii 1548. Rogerus Lechmere in uxorem duxit Annam Savage decimo die Julii 1557."—*P. R. Hanley*.



Lechmere, impaling, az. a chevron between three dolphins naiant, argent. Walsh.



Lechmere, impaling, argent, a chevron engrailed, between three chefs rooks sable. Rocke.

Oct: 1573. and is buried by my great-grandfather. They were married in Aug: 33° of Henry y<sup>e</sup> eighth. 1542.<sup>1</sup> In theyr time y<sup>e</sup> estate of our Family was much increased, my great grandmother bringing a faire inheritance, but chiefly by the friendship of Edmund Bonner Bishop of London, who being borne at Hanley Key (in my House now in the posson of John Hooper<sup>2</sup>) of meane parentage, was maintained at School and at Oxford by the liberality of Thomas Lechmere father to my great grandfather; w<sup>ch</sup> hee (afterwards coming to great place) gratefully acknowledged and requited, as by divers letters written by himself (yet extant) may appeare."

These letters are no longer preserved, but it may not be out of place here to observe that it is evident from a letter of

<sup>1</sup> The Parish Register of Hanley records the baptisms of the following persons, whom I suppose to be the issue of this marriage:—

“ Ricūs Lechmere, bapt fuit vii die Januarii, 1545.

“ ffancisces Lechmere, xxi die Martii 1547.

“ Maria Lechmere, bapt est xii die Aprilis 1549.

“ Elizabethe Lechmere, bapt fuit xiii die Novembris 1550.

“ Edmundus Lechmere, bapt fuit xv die Novembris 1550.

“ Thomas Lechmere, bapt fuit xvii die Martii 1553.

“ Alicia Lechmere, bapt fuit ultimo die Julij, 1555.

“ Winifreda Lechmere, bapt fuit septimo die Septem: 1556.”

Also the following marriage of Francis Lechmere:—

“ Richardus Cholmeley, in uxorem duxit Francisce Lechmere, vicesimo quarto die Aprilis, 1571.”

And the burial of Winifred Lechmere:—

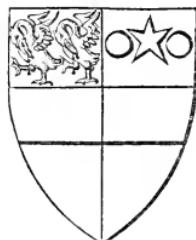
“ Winifrida Lechmere, sepulta fuit 1<sup>mo</sup> die Septembris 1573.”

<sup>2</sup> Hanley Key. This house is still in being, or at least one on the site of it.

Bonner's directed "To my loving and dearly beloved Friends, my Cousin Thomas Shirley, The Worshipful Richard Leechmere & Roger Leechmere his Brother," printed in Burnet's "History of the Reformation,"<sup>1</sup> that the requital here mentioned had regard to the Park of Bushley in Worcestershire, a lease of which was granted by Bishop Bonner to Richard Leechmere, in the time of Queen Mary, and inquired into by the Privy Council in 1591.<sup>2</sup>

To resume the Judge's account of his ancestors:—

"Edmund<sup>3</sup> Lechmere (only soñe of Richard) in July 1575, and in the 17<sup>th</sup> yeare of Queen Elizabeth, (ye said Edmund being then about 25 years of age) tooke to wife Anne Dingley (or Dyneley,) one of the Daughters of Henry Dingley of Charlton in the County of Worcester Esq<sup>r</sup> by Mary his Wife one of the daughters of S<sup>r</sup> Edward Nevill k<sup>t</sup> brother to the Lord Abergavenny. This Anne Dingley (as I find it register'd by her father) was borne the 4<sup>th</sup> day of feb: 1557. My grandfather Edmund Lechmere was borne 1550, and dyed año 1616, being 66 yeares of age. My father Edm: Lechmere was borne 1577, and dyed año 1650, in the 74<sup>th</sup> yeare of his age. Frō y<sup>e</sup> birth of my grandfather



Lechmere, impaling, *argent*, a *feſs* in *chief*, a *mullet* *fable* between two *ogrefes*.  
Dyneley.

<sup>1</sup> Ed. 1715, vol. ii., p. 225.

<sup>2</sup> "Calendar of State Papers, Domestic," 1591-1594, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> Edmund, the name (since hereditary) of Bishop Bonner, probably his Godfather.

año 1550, to the death of my father año 1650, one hundred yeares.

“ My grandfather Edmund Lechmere died at Tragod (one M<sup>t</sup> Seabornes House) in the parish of Lanruthall in Herefordshire,<sup>1</sup> whither hee was fled to obscure himself (there being at that time some prosecution against him for religion, hee being of the Romish perfwation)<sup>2</sup> and is buried in Lanruthall church. He died upon S<sup>t</sup> Andrews day, (Nov: 30) of an ague año dñi 1616. being a very healthy comely proper gentleman, as all that knew him (w<sup>ch</sup> I did not,) doe report of him. My grandmother Anne Lechmere dyed in January 1620, at the house of S<sup>r</sup> Walter Blount of Sodington in this County, where shee was then upon a visitt and is there buried; my grandfather and shee lived man and wife togeather 40 yeares and upwards. In theyr daies the estate of our family receaved much diminution, occasioned (partly) by theyr religion (partly) by tedious suits in law, especially y<sup>t</sup> for Bushley park, but chiefly by theyr superfluous house-keeping.

“ My father Edmund Lechmere (onely soñe of Edmund<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Llanrothall or Llanfrother, in Herefordshire.

<sup>2</sup> Probably from the intimacy with Bishop Bonner.

<sup>3</sup> The issue of Edmund Lechmere and Anne Dyneley, according to the Hanley Register, was:—

“ Edmundus Lechmere, bapt fuit xxii die Junii, 1577.

“ Helinor Lechmere, bapt xxx<sup>mo</sup> die Augusti, 1579.

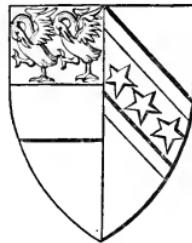
“ Margeria Lechmere, bapt fuit xxi die Februarii, 1580.”

Helinor appears to have died within the year.

“ Helinor Lechmere sepult fuit iiiij<sup>to</sup> die Januarii 1579” (80?).

his father) was borne the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1577, and in y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> yeare of Q. Eliz: Hee tooke to his second wife (for he had a former wife y<sup>e</sup> daughter of one M<sup>r</sup> Blacknall of Abington in Barkshire who died childlesse shortly after marriage) Margaret one of the daughters of S<sup>r</sup> Nicolas Overbury of Burton (Bourton) on the hill in the County of Glouſt Knight sister of that famous S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Overbury who was poysoned in the Tower of London. They married in June 1610. the 10<sup>th</sup> of October following was my Father admitted of the middle Temple. They had many children 8 ſoñes and 7 daughters of w<sup>ch</sup> Richard the eldest was borne in June 1611,<sup>1</sup> and died 7. Aug. 1632. Hee was a hopefull handsome yong gentleman, bred up from Gloucester Schoole in Queens Colledge in Oxford, and then in the Middle Temple London, where hee ſickned but died at Hanley & is buried by his auncetors.

“They had allſo Edmund<sup>2</sup> a yonger ſoñe borne in Aug.



Lechmere, impaling, *sable*, three mullets in bend cotised *argent*, Overbury.

<sup>1</sup> “Ricardus Lechmere filius Edmundi Lechmere Gener: bapt fuit apud Borton Underhill sexto die Junii 1611.

“Ricardus primogenitus Edmundi Lechmere gen: sepult fuit nono die Augusti Anō Dñi 1632.”—P. R. Hanley.

<sup>2</sup> According to a memorandum on paper pasted into the Judge’s Book, and written apparently by the Judge’s father, the children were:—

“Richard Leachmore, was baptized Junii 6, 1611.

“Nicholas Leachmore, Oct 1, 1613.

“Edward Leachmore, Oct. 16, 1614.

1623. and died in London 4. Febr. 1644. Hee was a very valiant yong man, shewing much bravery in divers fights betwixt y<sup>e</sup> king and parliam<sup>t</sup> hee being first an Ensigne, then serving on horseback, then as a Cap<sup>t</sup> of foot for the parliam<sup>t</sup>. Hee died of a consumption contracted by hard duty in the warres, especially during his imployment w<sup>th</sup> Colonell Lytcott in the Isle of Jersey. hee dyed most Christianly, and is buried in the Church of Saint John the Evangelist in London.

“ My Mother M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Lechmere died of a consumption March. 14. 1634. and is buried in Hanley Church.<sup>1</sup> She was a woman of a singular understanding, devout, and provident. shee dyed in the 42 yeare of her age. My father Edmund Lechmere dyed y<sup>e</sup> last of July. 1650. hee being then 73 yeares of age & upwards, and is buried in Hanley Church in the very grave where my great grandfather was buried. Hee was a tall comely man, exceeding temperate in all things (but tobacco) and very kindly affectionat to his children. in his sicknesse (w<sup>th</sup> was nor long nor violent) hee behaved himself w<sup>th</sup> much courage and exceeding cheerfullnes of spiritt; being

“ Anne Leachmore, Novemb. 27. 1615.

“ Thomas Leachmore, Jan: 25. 1616.

“ Margaret Leachmore, Jan: 18, 1620.

“ Edmund Leachmore, Augt 21, 1623.

“ Gen: chapter xlviil. the ix<sup>th</sup> verse. M<sup>r</sup> Woodfal's Text at the funerall of my poore soñe Richard Leachmore, buried the ix<sup>th</sup> of August, and died the vii<sup>th</sup> of August 1632.”

<sup>1</sup> “ Margareta uxor Edmūdi Lechmere, filia Nicholi Overburi super montem milit: sepulta fuit quindecimo die Martii Anō Dñi. 1634.”

assured of his reconciliation w<sup>th</sup> God through Christ his Saviour. Hee left behind him at y<sup>e</sup> time of his death onely 2 soñes, Nicolas his heire and Thomas a Citizen of London. and six daughters, Anne wife to Thomas Russell Esq<sup>r</sup>,<sup>1</sup> Mary wife to M<sup>r</sup> Nicolas Short, Margaret wife to M<sup>r</sup> Mathew Smith of London,<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> wife to Gabriel Yonge of Chobham in the County of Surrey Esq<sup>r</sup>, and frances and Jane unmarried. (Jane afterwards married M<sup>r</sup> William Parsons, as appears by the following certificate: " Memorandum That a publication of consent of marryage between William Parsons of Tewkesbury, and M<sup>rs</sup> Jane Lechmere of Hanley, in the County of Worcester, was made in the market place at Tewkesbury on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1654, and on two market days on the two next weekes following, and afterwards, that is to say, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1655, they were marryed & declared Husband & Wife by M<sup>r</sup> Lechmere, a Justice of the Peace for the C<sup>y</sup> of Worcester, in the presence of M<sup>r</sup> Langston, M<sup>r</sup> Warwick, minister of Hanley &c."<sup>4</sup> They both died in 1694, and are buried at Hanley.)

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Russell was a younger son of Sir Thomas Russell of Strensham, in the County of Worcester, Knt. The Marriage Articles are dated Aug. 8, 1634.

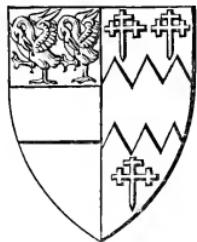
<sup>2</sup> Whose arms, according to a herald's work-book in the College of Arms, H. 1, 63, were "pr bend indented or and az. two cross patées counterchanged." They are nearly identical with those of Christopher Smith, clerk of the Pipe, in Grazebrook's "Heraldry of Smith."

<sup>3</sup> "She died 5 Jan: 1686, having been married 43 years, and was buried at Binfield, in Berks."—*Church Notes*, College of Arms, T. T. 21, p. 29.

<sup>4</sup> Bennett, "History of Tewkesbury," p. 186, note.

“ I Nicolas Lechmere third sonne (the second sonne died an infant) of Edmund Lechmere, by Margaret his wife was borne about the later end of Sept. 1613. the same yeare and very neare the same day that my Uncle S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Overbury was poysoned in the Tower of London, I was baptized the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. 1613. I was bred up in Gloucester Schoole under M<sup>r</sup> John Langley a very worthy schoolem<sup>r</sup> & from thence about 15 yeares of age removed to Wadham Colledge in Oxford where I became a bacheler of arts, & being full 20 yeares of age I was removed to the Middle Temple and was called to the barr 4<sup>th</sup> Jul. 1641. 12. Nov. 1642. I (being then full 29 yeares of age) tooke to wife Penelope one of the daughters of S<sup>r</sup> Edwin Sandys of Northborne in the County of Kent Knight by Katherine his wife one of the daughters of S<sup>r</sup> Richard Bulkeley of Anglesey Knight.

Lechmere, impaling, or, a fess dancette between three cross crosslets, fitché gules. Sandys.



I was married iust one hundred yeares after my great grandfathers marriage, who was married in August 1542.

“ The walke of elmes from y<sup>e</sup> garden to y<sup>e</sup> first stile was planted in y<sup>e</sup> yeare 1641, y<sup>e</sup> rest in y<sup>e</sup> yeare 1650.<sup>1</sup>

“ August. 22. 1651. friday. the <sup>2</sup> King with a

<sup>1</sup> The greater part of these trees, forming a magnificent avenue, were cut down by Mr. Lechmere Charlton, eldeſt ſon of Edmund Lechmere, Esq., previous to the year 1830; they have been replanted with great taste by the preſent Baronet.

<sup>2</sup> Here are erasures of words which once probably conveyed ſomething not very complimentary to His Maſtety.

numerous army, most Scotts, some English, by long uninterrupted marches from Sterling (in Scotland) to Worcester, sodainely possessed himself of the city of Worr, and in a few daies fortified it beyond imagination. At the same time y<sup>e</sup> Scotts possessed themselves of (and brake downe) Upton Bridge, Beawdley Bridge, Powick & Brancefords bridges.

“ Aug. 25. Massie Major Gen. to y<sup>e</sup> <sup>1</sup> King w<sup>th</sup> about 130 Scottish horse quarter'd in my House at Hanley, hee treated my people civilly, but threatned extirpation to mee and my posterity bycause I was ioyn'd to the army of y<sup>e</sup> pliam<sup>t</sup>.

“ Aug. 27. 150 Scotts horse quarterd at my House at Hanley.

“ Aug. 28. the pliam<sup>t</sup> army under the co<sup>m</sup>andaund of the Lord Generall Cromwell advanc'd before Worcester, and at y<sup>e</sup> same time Major Gen. Lambert gained Upton Bridge from the Scotts, in w<sup>ch</sup> enterprize Massie was wounded and some few of the enemy flaine.

“ Aug. 29 the pliam<sup>t</sup> army drew close to the city of Worr.

“ Sept. 3. 1651. it pleased God to give a totall overthrow to this Scottish army by his blessing on the army of the pliam<sup>t</sup> of England co<sup>m</sup>manded by the Lord Generall Cromwell, the battell began on the west fide the city (in those very fields where my brother-in-law Colonell Edwyn Sandys, the 23 of Sept. 1642 fought w<sup>th</sup> Prince Rupert and receaved the wounds

<sup>1</sup> See note on page 16.

whereof afterwards (1. Dec. 1642) hee died) but was ended (and was sharpeſt) on the eaſt ſide.

“The Morning the battell was fought the Generall Cromwell made a bridge over the river of Severne (a little above Teme Mouth) and another bridge (cloſe by) over the river of Teme, whereby hee paſſ'd over his army from ſide to ſide as hee ſaw occaſion. The battell began about one of the Clock, laſted till night. I was present at it, in purſuit of the victory. the City of Worſt was taken by ſtorme, and all the wealth in it became booty to the ſouldier.”

(Three lines here erased.)

“Adde hereunto, whiles I was imbroyleſd in theſe turmoiles here my wife was on Saturday (23. Aug. 1651.) about twelve at noone ſafely deliverd of a ſoñe whõ ſhee named Sandys. ſhee was then at the Lady Pagets house in Deanes Yard Westminſter.

“4. July. 1648. I was by the inhabitants of Beaudley (*nullo contradicente*) choſen burgeſſe to the parliament then ſitting (in the place of S<sup>r</sup> Henry Herbert k<sup>nt</sup> diſabled) and returnd by S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Rous Baronet high ſherif of this county, and the 10<sup>th</sup> of the ſame July I was admitted into the house of Coſmons as burgeſſe for Beaudley.<sup>1</sup>

“12. July. 1654. I was choſen one of the Knights for the County of Worceſter, for the parliam<sup>t</sup> to bee held at West-

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<sup>1</sup> Here follows an account of his dealiſgs with property in the parish of Ripple and Ryalls Court, which had been alienated to the Overburys.

minster the 3. of Sept. following, John Barker Esq being then Sheriff."

(The Judge then reverts to the earlier part of his life, and gives the following detailed account of the births of his children, by which we learn that from the year 1642 to 1655 he resided in London.)

" The time of my childrens births.

" 1. I was married y<sup>e</sup> 12 of Nov. 1642. y<sup>e</sup> 23 of October 1643, at y<sup>e</sup> cock pitt in Saint James Park over against white Hall my wife was delivered of a soñe. still-borne. buried in S<sup>t</sup> Martins Church, to w<sup>ch</sup> parish y<sup>e</sup> cock pitt belongs.

" 2. My daughter Letitia was borne at my brother Tho. Lechmeres house in friday street Londō the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1644 about 4 of y<sup>e</sup> clock in the morning, & named Letitia by the Lady Letitia Pagett, y<sup>e</sup> lady ffinch wife to y<sup>e</sup> lord keeper finch, and S<sup>r</sup> Henry Heyman.

" 3. My soñe Edwin was borne at y<sup>e</sup> same place 1. April 1646 & named Edwin by Major Generall Massie M<sup>r</sup> Glynne recorder of Londō and the lady Hansby.

" 4. My daughter Penelope was borne at Westminster at y<sup>e</sup> lady Pagetts house in y<sup>e</sup> Deanes Yard there 29. Jul. 1647. about 8 at night & was named Penelope by the lady Anne Harcourt, M<sup>r</sup>s Eliz. Sandys & my brother Thomas Lechmere.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> She married, Sept. 27, 1664, Ralph Taylor, of Welland, gent., M.A. He died June 4, 1676, æt. 39. She died, May 29, 1710, æt. 62. Both buried at Welland, co. Worcester.

“5. My sonne Edmond was borne at the same place the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1648. w<sup>th</sup>in a quarter of an houre after six in the morning. & was named Edmond by Leycester Lord Viscount Hereford, y<sup>e</sup> Lord Chief Baron Wyld & y<sup>e</sup> Lady Pagett.

“6. My daughter Katherine was borne at y<sup>e</sup> same place the 22 of March 1649 and was named Katherine by M<sup>rs</sup> frances Carr, M<sup>rs</sup> Pitts of Kyre, and General Edward Popham.

“7. My soñe Sandys was borne at the same place the 23. of August 1651. & was named Sandys by S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Sandys M<sup>r</sup> John Sandys the Merchant & my sister Yonge.

“8. My daughter Margaret was borne at the same place 10. Nov. 1652. and was named Margarett by my sister Smith M<sup>rs</sup> Margarett Carr and M<sup>r</sup> John Dormer.

“9. My soñe Thomas was borne at y<sup>e</sup> same place the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1654 & named Thomas by S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Rous M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Overbury and M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Acton.

“(10.) My daughter Isabella was borne at my brother Thomas Lechmeres house in Friday street (for my hōb<sup>le</sup> friend y<sup>e</sup> Lady Pagett died about June 1655 upon whose death wee (who had sojourned w<sup>th</sup> her from the yeare 1646 till that time) removed to Hanley, but my wife comeing up to London shortly after, was on y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1655 delivered of a daughter, named Isabella by y<sup>e</sup> widow Lady Digby y<sup>e</sup> Lady Hansby & M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Bulkeley.

“(11) My daughter Mary was borne at my house at

Hanley in the chamber over the parlor the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 1656 about six of y<sup>e</sup> clock in the morning & was named Mary by my cousin Edward Dingley of Charlton, my cousin Elizabeth Pytts & my cousin Penelope Conliell.”<sup>1</sup>

“ 20. Aug. 1656. I was chofen Knight of the shire for this County of Worſ for the parliam<sup>t</sup> to bee held at Westminſter the 17<sup>th</sup> of Sept next following. Thomas ffoley Esq<sup>r</sup> then Sheriff.”

(Next follows under date of 28<sup>th</sup> June 1656, an account of his purchase of lands from the Coventry family, which I have omitted, and then follows a record of certain domestic events.)

“ The new kitchen & backhouse w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> rooms over them were built by mee in the yeare 1656 the old buildings here before standing being by mee first pulled downe.

“ The accornes by the gate in the parke were sett between allhollowtide (*sic*) and christmas the same yeare.

“ The wall about y<sup>e</sup> north part of the garden & y<sup>e</sup> houſe of office was built by mee in the year 1656, and y<sup>e</sup> wall about y<sup>e</sup> east part of y<sup>e</sup> garden in the yeare 1657.

“ Aug. 26. 1657. betwixt nine & ten in y<sup>e</sup> morning dyed my very worthy kinsman Talbott Badger Esq<sup>r</sup>. after a ſhort ſickneſs of eight daies. hee was a worthy good man & an excellent holy Christian. In all the time of his ſickneſs (& ſoe of his health) I could not obſerve one unadvised word to

<sup>1</sup> She married, April 23, 1685, Higham Coke, of Suckley, co. Worcester, and died April 21, 1689, and is buried at Suckley.

peced from him, hee was much in fervent prayer & dyed full of faith & hope, uttering these his last words in a triumphant tone, *'I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine, I come I come.'*

“Hee was a Justice of peace & Capt of the horfe of this County, much beloved in his life & much lamented at his death. An Excellent Example.

“This yeare 1657 very many dyed in this parish of Hanley, to the number of at least forty pfons, yet of noe pestilentiall or infectious disease, but of sundry maladies, & among the rest foure children twins of one birth y<sup>e</sup> first children of one good wife Hyde a yong woman at y<sup>e</sup> wood-side.

“In the year 1658 I built the west & south wall of the garden, & the garden gate. The same yeare I new built the north and south sides of the great barne, covering it all anew y<sup>e</sup> south side with tile the north side w<sup>th</sup> flatt.

“In feb. y<sup>e</sup> same yeare I planted the chesnutts in Upper Lechmere field.

(The Judge again recurs to political subjects, and records the death of Cromwell and the proclamation of his successor in the following terms.)

“friday Sept. 3. 1658. This day & yeare about 4 of y<sup>e</sup> clock in the afternoone at white-Hall dyed that ( erased ) person Oliver Cromwell Lord Protector of England Scotland and Ireland having in his life time according to y<sup>e</sup> humble petition & advice of the last preceding parliam<sup>t</sup> declared his

eldest son the Lord Richard Cromwell his successor who was the next day solemnly proclaimed in London & Westminster & throughout England y<sup>e</sup> weeke follow<sup>e</sup>, shortly after hee was proclaimed in Dunkirk then in the poss<sup>n</sup> of the English (won by his Father togeather with Mardike from the Spaniard in the yeare 1658.) The Lord Richard (now L<sup>d</sup> Protector) had the blessing of a peaceable entrance upon the government."

(On a slip of paper, pasted in the book, is the following Invitation to Cromwell's Funeral which, as it is, if not unique, a very rare document, I have here transcribed ; the original, except the address, is printed.)

" Nicholas Letchmere Esq<sup>r</sup> Attorney of the Duchy in yo<sup>r</sup> Mourning Gowne & hood.

" You are desired to attend the Funeral of the most Serene and most Renowned OLIVER late Lord Protector, from *Somerset-House*, on *Tuesday* the 23<sup>th</sup> (*sic*) of *November* instant at Eight of the clock in the morning at the furthest, and to bring with you this Ticket ; and that by *Friday* night next you send to the Heralds Office near *Pauls*, the names of your Servants that are to attend in mourning, without which they are not to be admitted ; and also to take notice that no coaches are to pass that day in the Streets between *Somerset-House* and *Westminster*." (Sealed with the single arms of Cromwell, *a lion rampant*, in red wax.)

(Endorsed)

" Recep<sup>i</sup> 18. Nov. 1658. N. Lechmere. No. 2."

“ In December following writs issued for summoning a pliam<sup>t</sup> to meet at Westminster 27<sup>o</sup> of January following. the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same Jan. was the day of election for this County, when in a very full county my self & Thomas ffoley Esq<sup>r</sup> were chos'en k<sup>nts</sup> for this shire. y<sup>e</sup> election was very costly, the expenze at severall Innes in Wor<sup>r</sup> (taken up by M<sup>r</sup> foley & myself for entertaynement of our friends) amounting to noe lesse then (*sic*) fix hundred & fourteen pounds, w<sup>ch</sup> wee payd to a peny. All this was occasioned by our competitors, M<sup>r</sup> John Talbott of Salwarp & M<sup>r</sup> John Nanfan of Birch-Morton ioyning ag<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Foley & myselfe. George Coventry Esq<sup>r</sup> eldest soñe to y<sup>e</sup> Lord Coventry then high Sherif.

“ This pliam<sup>t</sup> lasted not long, but was by the impetuousnes of the souldiery dispersed on y<sup>e</sup> day of 1659. & shortly after the old long pliam<sup>t</sup> which had been interrupted the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. 1653. & discontinued to y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1659 then reassembled, & shortly after was Richard Lord Protector layd aside, his brother Henry Lord Lieutenant of Ireland comanded home, & both retiring to a private life, the pliam<sup>t</sup> restored the Govrnm<sup>t</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> way of a republike, as it was before the interruption.

“ This summer was an (erased) insurrec-  
tion made by S<sup>r</sup> George Booth & S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Middleton in Lan-  
cashire and Cheshire.

“ This yeare 1659 I repaired Ryalls Court it being become very ruinous by long neglect & want of repations. it cost mee 117<sup>l</sup>.

“ I the same yeare made y<sup>e</sup> wall frō y<sup>e</sup> corne barne to y<sup>e</sup> parlor chimney. & set y<sup>e</sup> furnace to brew w<sup>th</sup> cole, of w<sup>ch</sup> the Iron work cost mee 2<sup>l</sup> 14<sup>s</sup>. This same yeare Sept. ult. my 2 girles Isabella & Mary came home frō . . . . .

“ Thursday. 25<sup>th</sup> of Aug. 1659. I riding frō Worſ to Monmouth Assizes a little beyond y<sup>e</sup> old Gore<sup>1</sup> w<sup>th</sup>in a mile & half of Rosſe, my horse (by what accident I know not) tumbled over & over, & gave me a daingerous fall, in w<sup>ch</sup> I brake one bone in my left shoulder & displaced another, but by Gods blessing in a short time after well againe.

“ Upon my return home my noble Cosin William Ligon Esq (being himself then removed frō Maddresfield to Beau-champs Court for his health) sent mee this līe, with a poem composed by himself much favouring of a devout holy mind. of w<sup>ch</sup> the title was The triumphs of Sion or the victory of Grace in sufferings. it was writ w<sup>th</sup> judgment & elegancy. the dedication being to myself I here insert it *Honoris ergo.*

“ To Nicholas Lechmere Esq<sup>r</sup>.

S<sup>r</sup> though y<sup>r</sup> serious thoughts frequent the barr  
where witt & eloquence attended are  
by gold & honour, and the long robes thronge  
to catch y<sup>e</sup> nectar dropping frō your tongue  
where the sage Judge lends you a patient eare  
y<sup>e</sup> dark enigmaes of the law to cleere  
where power imploys your art w<sup>ch</sup> will not bee

<sup>1</sup> The old Gore is an inn by the road-side, still, I believe, retaining its name and occupation.

by frownes or smiles wrought to obliquity  
where injurd weaknes w<sup>ch</sup> oppressors grind  
your law & learning for a patron find  
yet in receffes to your Tusculane  
if you have minutes for a thing soe vaine  
daigne here to read what gratitude hath sent,  
our love & friendships lasting monument.

“WILL LIGON.”

“ March, 16, 1659, y<sup>e</sup> long pliant (first assembled by writ of King Charles y<sup>e</sup> first 3 Nov. 1640) after many wonderful changes by them made upon Church and State, & many unpresidented alterations & impressions made upon themselves, as (frō theyr first confisstance of King, Lords, & Comons) acting by y<sup>e</sup> power of y<sup>e</sup> Lords & Comons whōt & against the king, & after by y<sup>e</sup> power of y<sup>e</sup> Comons onely (or rather a small part of the comons) whōt & against y<sup>e</sup> king & lords, & after many interruptions of that remaining part of y<sup>e</sup> comons, the first by Oliver Cromwell, from the 19<sup>th</sup> Apr: 1653, to the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1659, and the other by Col: John Lambert & other officers of o<sup>r</sup> Army from                    day of                    to y<sup>e</sup>                    day of                    in the same yeare 1659. This long pliant the said 16 of March 1659, by act of its own dissolved itself. But before the Dissolution an act was made by them for assembling another pliant 25 Ap: 1660, w<sup>ch</sup> assembled accordingly. note y<sup>e</sup> comons were sumoned by writ under y<sup>e</sup> then great seale, under y<sup>e</sup> style of y<sup>e</sup> keepers of o<sup>r</sup> liberty (a name invented by the long pliant, after they had declared themselves a republic) and noe writs at all issued for sumon-

ing of the peeres, but they assembled gratis, and acted as a house of peeres."

(The different tone between this last part of the writer's Journal and the former, is evident ; the fact is, he had wisely perceived the signs of the times, and had applied for, and obtained pardon for his former demerits. This appears from his Journal, and also from a letter from Lord Viscount Mordaunt to the King (Charles II.), preserved in Lord Clarendon's State Papers,<sup>1</sup> which is as follows :—)

" March 24, 1660.

" I become an humble suitor to your Majesty, in behalf of one who saved my life at the High Court of Injustice, Mr. Lechmere, who was never in any of those Courts before, & there endeavoured to save us all ; He is now considerable in his country : being Commissioner of the Militia in Shropshire, Hereford & Worcestershire ; His interest he will employ as I shall direct, in placing such Captains of Horse & Foot in command there as I shall propose to him. He has drawn up his pardon himself, a copy of which will be useful to lay by your Majesty for a precedent : He likewise pays £200 for it ; it is a good example to induce others to return betimes to their duty ; and being all those, who never were engaged in the most perverse of all actions, are pardoned by the Proclamation, it is certainly more to your majesty's service to forgive particular persons who repent and seek pardon thus singly, than

<sup>1</sup> Vol. iii., p. 707.

to forgive all in grosf; The money I will return when your Majesty commands it, and hope great numbers will follow in this kind; it were to be wished all men would be taken off thus, except the excepted in the proclamation."

[The Journal hence proceeds in the following loyal terms.]

" Note, that May 29, [1660] the most excellent Prince Charles y<sup>e</sup> second King of England &c came to London, hee having been most injuriously deprived of his kingdomes & governm<sup>t</sup> ever since y<sup>e</sup> death of his father Charles ye first, w<sup>ch</sup> was 30. Jan: 1648. to that time. Hee landed at Dover some few daies before, pass'd frō Dover to London in continued throngs & shouts of people flocking frō all parts of o<sup>r</sup> nation & was recd by the greatest joy & heart-satisfaction that soe long desired & soe worthily deserving a prince could bee. After y<sup>e</sup> dissolution of the long pliament, of w<sup>ch</sup> I was an unhappy member, I applied myself to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> then at Bruxells for his Pardon, w<sup>ch</sup> his Ma<sup>tie</sup> afterwards, at Breda, y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Apr: 1660 most graciously granted mee, & I shortly after recd it under y<sup>e</sup> great Seal of England. my chief instrument in procuring it was the right hōble John L<sup>d</sup> Viscount Mordant by the mediation of my most sincere (& therefore most honoured) friend Thomas Beverley Esq: now S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Beverley K<sup>nt</sup>.

" Apr: 22, 1661. His Ma<sup>tie</sup> was crowned at Westminster, the pompe & solemnity of whose coronation was exceeding great & magnificent.

" In the yeare 1661, I built the flood gate, & the same yeare I built my study at the south west end of the garden at Hanley.

“ In the yeare 1662, I finished y<sup>e</sup> mount walke, y<sup>e</sup> stone work was done by Goddard of [redacted] at y<sup>e</sup> rate of sixpence a foot for y<sup>e</sup> coping, and 4<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> foot for y<sup>e</sup> stepps, Hee found y<sup>e</sup> stone, wrought and layd it at y<sup>t</sup> rate, I paying for y<sup>e</sup> carriage.

[Next follows a note of a Trial at Worcester, with regard to a custom within the parish of Hanley, as to the payment of 2d. a hogshead for Improper Tithe; the Jury found there is such a custom.]

“ July 9<sup>th</sup> 1663, my daughter Katherine, after a long weaknesse departed this life, and lieth buried in the Isle in Hanley Church, next to my great grandfather, between his grave and the font.<sup>1</sup>

“ This yeare I new built y<sup>e</sup> cart house at y<sup>e</sup> end of the great barne.

“ June 18, 1664, a feale or sea calf (*vitulus marinus*) was killed in Seaverne towards y<sup>e</sup> upper end of Seaverne meadow in Hanley. This fish was about 7 foot in length, & was killed in the river by one William Teale of Hanley w<sup>th</sup> a musket shott.

[The next entry in the Journal relates to the Manor of Eftington, purchased from Richard, Earl of Dorset, in the years 1661-1664. He sums up as follows.]

“ and soe now all titles are united in mee, and I hope God will blesse it to mee & my posterity after mee. Amen.”

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<sup>1</sup> “ July ye 8<sup>th</sup> 1663, M<sup>s</sup> Katherine Lechmere daughter of M<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Lechmere and Penelope his Wyfe, buried.”—P. R. Hanley. N.B. Either an error in this date or in the Judge’s Journal as to the 8th and 9th.

“ March 2, 1664. My cosin<sup>1</sup> Roger Lechmere of Fanhope dyed w<sup>th</sup>out issue, & by his last will devised his manor house at Fanhope, & most of his lands here to his wife, & after to mee & my heires, but charged w<sup>th</sup> a great sume.

“ March 4, 1664. My cosin Richard Lechmere Uncle & next heire to Roger, being displeased w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> will (as indeed he had cause, being Uncle and next heire, & yet not mentioned in it) & allso to expresse his kindnes to mee & my family, did execute a deed of covenant to mee, whereby he did covenant to stand seised of that estate here to y<sup>e</sup> use of mee for my life, & 21 yeares after, w<sup>th</sup> divers remainders over to my children, only he reserved an Estate for his own life in some p<sup>t</sup> as he well deserved.

“ this deed is of great use, for whereinsoever y<sup>e</sup> will of Roger is eneffectuall, as I think it is to y<sup>e</sup> maine, this deed will doe it w<sup>th</sup> effect & w<sup>th</sup>out y<sup>e</sup> charge upōn it, w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> will has layd.”

[The cautious old lawyer has added here]—“ *not soe Ifind.*”

“ April 6, 1665. my soñe Edmund was admitted into Trinity Coll: in Oxford, a Gentleman Comoner of that Society: & next day went into Comons. One M<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Stratford (a discreet man) being his Tutor; And instead of plate I gave ten pounds to y<sup>e</sup> house in money to bee employed in theyr new building, this I did at the request of y<sup>e</sup> Society,

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<sup>1</sup> Roger Lechmere of Fanhope was descended from Roger, second son of Thomas Lechmere of Hanley and Elianor Frere.

& of this gift of mine, there is a memoriall enter'd in y<sup>e</sup> Ledger booke of that Society.

“ On Wensday Jan: 27, 1665, my worthy friend & kinsman S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Rous of Rous-Lench Bart: came to my houfe & brought w<sup>th</sup> him in company William Ferrers Esq, a young gent: of 25 yeares of age, & a kinsman of S<sup>r</sup> Tho: Rous his former lady (she was y<sup>e</sup> daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Humfrey Ferrers of Tamworth Castle) this gentleman hee kindly brought to my house to bee a fuitor to my eldest daughter Letticia. The Wensday following I set forward for y<sup>e</sup> circuit w<sup>ch</sup> began at Abington, Jul: 7 1665. leaving M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers at my Houfe.

“ Thurſday 13 Jul: M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers came to me to Worſ being y<sup>e</sup> day before y<sup>e</sup> affizes there. Wherein through presence of my worthy cofin Edward Dingley of Charlton Esq. wee quickly agreed y<sup>e</sup> marriage.

“ Monday 17 Jul: M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers came to me to Stafford, & from thence accompanied me to Shrewsbury: Wensday 9<sup>th</sup> of Aug: y<sup>e</sup> circuit ended at Glouſ: w<sup>ch</sup> day I came home, & found M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers at my Houfe, where he had continued a weeke before.

“ Monday 14 Aug: wee fealed y<sup>e</sup> marriage agreement, & y<sup>e</sup> wedding day was intended to bee tuesday y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> of August, w<sup>ch</sup> day M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers inclined to bycause on that day, as he sayd, his father was married.

“ Wensday y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> of Aug: M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers went frō my houfe to fetch his Mother to his wedding, ſhe was then at Stanton in Leicestershire, at y<sup>e</sup> house of one Richard Brudenell Esq

who had married her sister's daughter, the daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Walter Littleton of Lichfield by his lady y<sup>e</sup> sister of M<sup>rs</sup> Ferrers, they were both of them y<sup>e</sup> daughters of S<sup>r</sup> Lewis Pemberton.

“ Saturday 19 : Aug : M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers came to Stanton, & that night was not well. complayning of great paine in his head. soe he continued till Thursday night 12 oclock, at w<sup>ch</sup> time, hee fell into a Lethargie, in which he continued till Monday following.

“ Sunday 27 : Aug : I had notice of his sicknes by a letter frō his Mother.

“ Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. I set forward for Leicestershire & came to Stanton y<sup>e</sup> day following, when I found M<sup>r</sup> Ferrers alive, but past hope of recovery : The Physicians D<sup>r</sup> Bowles D<sup>r</sup> Tyringham & D<sup>r</sup> Moore being all gone, as iudging his life desperate : & soe it proved to my great sorrow, for on Wensday following about 5 in y<sup>e</sup> afternoone hee dyed, & w<sup>th</sup> him dyed as worthy a yong gentleman as ever I was acquainted w<sup>th</sup>. Hee was a right honeste man, of great parts & learning, every way accomplished w<sup>th</sup> travaille languages musick etc : Hee was of y<sup>e</sup> barre in Grayes Inne, & a good proficient in y<sup>e</sup> Lawes, w<sup>th</sup> hee intended his pfeffion. Hee is buried in y<sup>e</sup> church at Stanton on y<sup>e</sup> right hand of y<sup>e</sup> Quire.<sup>1</sup>

“ My poore Daughter tooke her losse, as shée had just cause,

<sup>1</sup> “ Will Ferrers Esq was buried August the last 1665.”—P. R. Staunton Wyvile.

w<sup>th</sup> exceeding sorrow ; but I trust God has a blessing in store for her, notwithstanding this great disappointm<sup>t</sup>. *fiat voluntas Domini.*<sup>1</sup>

“ This yeare (1665) was a very great mortality in Londō & all places thereabouts. there dyed about July & Aug : many thousand weekly.

“ this year Upton was infected, it began in the house of Phillip Sermon, & divers of his family dyed of it, & in some few other houfes.

“ This yeare I set y<sup>e</sup> Elms in the upp end of the Key-Meadow, *seris factura nepotibus umbram*.

“ Aug : 1666. I pchased of Thomas frewen his house and land it cost me 470<sup>l</sup>. being 70<sup>l</sup>. too deare, but some conveniency made mee over-buy it.

“ This yeare y<sup>e</sup> City of Londō was destroyed by fire, the fire began 2. Sept: 1666, near Londō bridge & in three daies time consumed all from thence to y<sup>e</sup> Temple, & w<sup>th</sup> it a great pt of y<sup>e</sup> Temple, spreading to Aldgate, Aldersgate, &c. soe that little of y<sup>e</sup> City remained unburnt, besydes much of y<sup>e</sup> suburbs burnt. The hande of Joab was thought to bee in it, but time will discover.

“ This yeare I made the inclosure in Northfield & planted y<sup>e</sup> quick-hedge there—the rick close.

“ Easter Terme 1667 my soñe Edmond came into Coñons in the Middle Temple. *Benedicat Deus.*

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<sup>1</sup> She never married, but died in October, 1669.

“ July 27, 1667. dyed that very worthy & excellent pson M<sup>r</sup> Henry Bromley of Upton, a pson certainly of singular virtue & piety, & of rare endowments of nature.”

(Next follows a note dated in 1668, with regard to the purchase of “y<sup>e</sup> reversion of Rogers-Meadow, lying in Seavern Meadow, pcell of the Mannor of Hanley Hall,” from the Russell Family ; and here appears to be the proper place to insert the following interesting letter, the original of which is preserved in the Judge’s Book, and which was written while he was on Circuit, being then a rising Barrister, at Shrewsbury, March 20, 1668.)

“ ffor my dearly beloved soñ Edmund Lechmere.

“ Ned : y<sup>e</sup> : 23 day of March approaching (on w<sup>ch</sup> day now one hundred yeares agoe my great grandfather dyed) I have often thought I should not survive it, and though I am now, (God be blessed) in pfect health & strength, yet I think fit to set down these few memorials.

“ 1. in case I dye let mee be buried privately in y<sup>e</sup> night wthout any pompe or solemne funerall, in y<sup>e</sup> place I formerly appointed.

“ 2. I have made my will allready, & put it in my garden study in one of the drawers there. y<sup>e</sup> key of thos drawers & of my iron chest you will find in y<sup>e</sup> wooden box in y<sup>t</sup> study.

“ 3. I have made you my sole Executor for w<sup>ch</sup> you are of age sufficient. my will must bee proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury by reason of my *bona notabilia* in divers dioceſſes.

“ 4. after my death take care of payment of my debts & y<sup>r</sup> sisters portions; & of your owne & y<sup>r</sup> brothers education.

“ 5. doe not marry too soone, & when you doe, marry into some worthy family where religion sobriety & vertue is owned, & make not too great a ioynture, for that is pnicious to families.

“ 6. doe not forsake y<sup>e</sup> Temple nor your studyes there, & let your company bee w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> sober & ingenious gentlemen of that & other Societies.

“ 7. exercise y<sup>r</sup> discretion soe as that you bee not a prey to knaves & cheates, neyther in y<sup>r</sup> marriage nor y<sup>r</sup> other conversation.

“ 8. Let your brother bee removed now at Easter next to y<sup>e</sup> University & there placed a Comonner (and noe higher) under some Tutor of M<sup>r</sup> Colliers recommendation, & take care y<sup>t</sup> hee live soberly modestly & vertuously in y<sup>e</sup> University, and when hee hath continued there one whole yeare remove him to y<sup>e</sup> Temple (where hee is allready admitted) & see y<sup>t</sup> hee follow his studyes diligently & live soberly modestly & vertuously & in due time take upon him y<sup>e</sup> profession in which I have gone before him, & I require this y<sup>e</sup> rather of him, because I think him well fitted for y<sup>t</sup> pfession.

“ 9. for y<sup>r</sup> sisters bee kind to them & study theyr advancemt according to y<sup>e</sup> portions I have left them by my will, & if they marry w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> or y<sup>r</sup> mothers liking give each of them (if you can) 100<sup>l</sup> more than I have given them.

“ 10. Bee dutifull unto & tender of y<sup>r</sup> Mother & bee a com-

fort to her when I am gone, & that you may bee mutuall comforts to one another all extravagant expences must be avoided, & all pties must content themselves w<sup>th</sup> what is left them.

“ 11. noe heriot is due upō my death for any p<sup>t</sup> of my estate, but onely for Hanley, & for that onely one heriot by the custome of y<sup>e</sup> place. Eftington comes to you by survivorship, Ryalls Court & Lulsey are not heriotable, but reliefs must be payd for Hanley & Ryalls Court & for noe other.

“ 12. Remember y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> estate left you was (the greatest part of it) gained by y<sup>e</sup> industry of y<sup>r</sup> father, & if you cañot increase it yet if you doe not preserve it you will bee blameworthy. but looke upō Gods blessing as your best patrimony & doe not by a vicious life pvoke his wrath ag<sup>t</sup> you.

“ 13. Bee pitifull & compassionate to y<sup>e</sup> poore, & think not what is parted w<sup>th</sup> to such to bee lost, but layd up for you & yours.

“ These Memorials I thought fit to leave for you (not as part of my will or to be annexed to it) but as directions and instrucōns in y<sup>e</sup> future course of your life, & as a testimony of y<sup>e</sup> fatherly love I beare you, & soe recomending you to y<sup>e</sup> guidance of y<sup>e</sup> Allmighty w<sup>th</sup> my blessing upō you & all y<sup>r</sup> sisters & brothers I rest y<sup>r</sup> very loving Father.

“N. LECHMERE.”

“March 20, 1668. Shrewsbury.

10 guineas in my pocket.”

(To recur again to the Journal.)

“ This yeare (1668.) I made y<sup>e</sup> cellar under y<sup>e</sup> buttry & y<sup>e</sup>

chimneys adjoyninge, & made y<sup>e</sup> front of the whole new between the Hall chimneys & thofe new chimneys. cū multis aliis.

“ March 1, 1668. I enterd upō my reading in y<sup>e</sup> middle Temple. I read upō y<sup>t</sup> branch of y<sup>e</sup> stat. of 33, H. VIII. cap: 39. w<sup>ch</sup> subiects estates tayle to y<sup>e</sup> Kings debts by iudg-  
ment *recognisans obligař*: over other specialty. I read (I thank God) with good acceptation. but it cost mee many hundred pounds.

“ On y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> of feb: before dyed my honest servant Samuel Bucke yongest soñe of Gervase Bucke Esq: & Grandsoñ of S<sup>r</sup> John Buck K<sup>n</sup>t hee lieth buried at y<sup>e</sup> Temple. hee was an honest understanding man & had served mee many yeares.

“ This yeare at my goeing up to Easter terme I placed my soñe Sandys a Coñoner in Christchurch in Oxford, M<sup>r</sup> Collier his Tutor. God guide him.<sup>1</sup>

“ This yeare 1669 in June my soñe Edmund went into fraunce & returned in August following.

“ This yeare Oct. 7. dyed my deare daughter Letitia: S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Overbury having been here in Sept before, shee accompanied him & his Lady back to Boston & there fell sick & dyed. shee is buried in Boston Church in y<sup>e</sup> chancell there.

“ This yeare I planted y<sup>e</sup> orchard in little Longcroft.

“ This yeare I contracted for Cowley parke, am to pay for it two thousand three hundred fiftie five pounds.

“ This yeare Jan: 3. dyed George Duke of Albemarle, who

<sup>1</sup> He was the ancestor of the present family of Lechmere of Fanhope.

being from an ordinary officer raised by Cromwell to bee Governor of Scotland had thereby y<sup>e</sup> happy opportunity of being the chief instrument of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> restoration. ffor w<sup>ch</sup> laden w<sup>th</sup> honours & wealth hee for nine yeares & upwards injoyed the fruit of his own great deservings, togeather w<sup>th</sup> the singular favour of a most munificent & gratefull Master.

“ This yeare in Dec : 1669. S<sup>r</sup> Richard Sandys K<sup>nt</sup> (eldest soñe of Edwyn Sandys Esq eldest soñe of S<sup>r</sup> Edwyn Sandys my wifes father) being a birding neare his house at Northburne in Kent the guñne in his hand went off unexpectedly & shott him dead in y<sup>t</sup> place.

“ This yeare 11. March. 1669. my very loving brother M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Lechmere departed this life at Totteridge in Hartfordshire & is buried in the church there. Hee was a worthy good man of a bountifull heart & hand, a wise iust honest man & truely religious. Hee left nine children, foure soñes Thomas<sup>1</sup> Nicholas<sup>2</sup> Edmund & Richard<sup>3</sup> & five

<sup>1</sup> Thomas, the eldest son, doubtles the Thomas Lechmere who married at Westminster Abbey, Dec., 1677, Jane Blagrave. He died in 1703. See Col. George Chester, “ Westminster Abbey Registers,” p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Nicholas, 2nd son of Mr. Thomas Lechmere, by his wife Anne, was also a merchant of London, and married Judith, sole daughter and heir of John Corbett, late of Alston, in the County of Salop, Esq. He appears to have been father of Richard Lechmere, of Sutton Hall, London, living Dec., 1738, and grandfather of Prebendary Lechmere, who died Prebendary of Winchester in 1770.

<sup>3</sup> Was this the Richard of Newborne Hall, co. Suffolk, whose son Thomas was buried at Bermondfey in 1778? See Lyson’s “ Environs of London,” vol. i., p. 551.

daughters & a discreet vertuous widow behind him. hee was 53 yeares old & some weekes, being baptiz'd y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> of Jan: 1616.

“Año 1670, in Easter terme dyed M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Sandys yonger soñe of S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Sandys of Miserden in y<sup>e</sup> county of Glouſt. this was that Mr. Sandys that made y<sup>e</sup> river of Avon navigable, & wasted a fine estate in that undertaking & others of y<sup>e</sup> like nature.

“This yeare in y<sup>e</sup> moneths of July. Aug. & Sept. I built the new brick stable.

“This yeare in Easter terme my soñe Sandys came into Comons in y<sup>e</sup> Middle Temple.

“January 12. 1670. my daughter Margaret was married to Edmond Neale of London Esq.<sup>1</sup>

“In hilary terme following I sold y<sup>e</sup> water flade & other lands at Lulsey to M<sup>r</sup> Winnington.

“In febr. March & April 1670. & 1671. I built the new barne at Ryalls Court. April 1671. I sold a small pcell of land in Tucks end in y<sup>e</sup> pish of Earles Crombe to one Bromage.

“15. Dec. 1671. My cosin M<sup>r</sup>s Anne Lechmere of Fanhope (widow & relict of my kinsman M<sup>r</sup> Roger Lechmere

<sup>1</sup> The P. R. of Hanley says, Jan. 10, 1670.

Edmund Smith, one of the minor poets of England, is said to have been the son of this Edmund Neale and Margaret Lechmere, and to have been born near Tenbury in 1668, and to have adopted the name of *Smith* from the kindness of a relation. If born 1668, he was probably the son of Mathew Smith and Margaret Lechmere, the Judge's sister.

deceased) receaved a bruise in her head by y<sup>e</sup> overturning of her coach of w<sup>ch</sup> w<sup>th</sup> in few houres she dyed. whereupō that estate there fell to mee, but charged w<sup>th</sup> 2200<sup>l</sup> to bee payd by mee as shee should direct. this shee prevailed w<sup>th</sup> her husband to charge y<sup>t</sup> estate withall (w<sup>ch</sup> was not well done I believe) but the burthen is fallen upon mee & I must beare it.

“ Sept. 25. 1672. I pchased of M<sup>r</sup> Horniold the perpetuall advowson of the vicaridge of Hanley & a release of all tenures customes and services for my lands in Hanley this cost 200<sup>l</sup>.

“ 1673. This yeare I began the brick building on the north & south fide y<sup>e</sup> green court. one M<sup>r</sup> John Averian(?) undertooke y<sup>e</sup> whole & to provide all materialls and make it fit for habitation for 250<sup>l</sup>. how hee will performe time will shew.

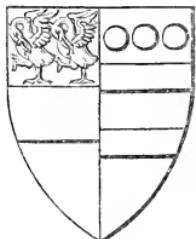
“ He fayled in all things.

“ Aug. 7. 1673. My soñe Edmund married M<sup>s</sup> Lucy Hungerford yongest sister of S<sup>r</sup> Edward Hungerford of ffarley

Castle in the county of Somerset Knight of the Bath, a person honourably descended from y<sup>e</sup> auncient stock of y<sup>e</sup> Hungerfords Barons. but by severall attainders and by the marriage of Mary Hungerford daughter & heire of Thomas Lord Hungerford Botreaux & Molines to Edward Lord Hastings

(frō whom y<sup>e</sup> Earles of Huntington are descended) the family is at this day devested of their auncient place amongst the

Lechmere, impaling, *sable*  
two bars *argent*,  
in chief three  
plates.  
Hungerford.



peeres in parliament, but a family still continuing in the next rank to y<sup>e</sup> nobility. my daughter-in-law feemes to bee a sober worthy yong woman, & my soñe (probably) most happy in her. But *solus harum rerum Laudator Tempus.*

“The marriage was solemnized at Black Borton (Bourton) in Oxfordshire being y<sup>e</sup> ioynture house of y<sup>e</sup> widow lady Hungerford y<sup>e</sup> mother. where noe cost was spared, indeed there was much needless expence, but the mother would have it soe. There were present at y<sup>e</sup> marriage y<sup>e</sup> Lady Mother, y<sup>e</sup> Lord & Lady ffalkland & one M<sup>r</sup> Cary their kinsman, S<sup>r</sup> Edward Stradling of S<sup>t</sup> Donates in Glamorganshire & his lady, S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Overbury S<sup>r</sup> Robert Henley of the Grainge neare Winchester & his lady M<sup>r</sup> Mountagu of Laycock in Wiltshire & his lady, M<sup>r</sup> Dingley of Charlton, the great M<sup>r</sup> Sheldon of Weston<sup>1</sup> & many with him, myself, wife, daughters, Kate Bell & Mall Sister Smith, nephew ffleetwood *cum multis alijs.* my Lord Falkland & M<sup>r</sup> Hungerford eldest soñe of S<sup>r</sup> Edward were bridemen, my daughter Bell and one Madam Warnford Bridemayds. M<sup>r</sup> Sheldon of Weston & myself led the old Lady to her coach & waited upon her to church where M<sup>r</sup> Sheldon continued all y<sup>e</sup> solemnity. after that ended y<sup>e</sup> bride was delivered to M<sup>r</sup> Sheldon & myself, who led her to her coach, & waited upon her home. *Benedicat Deus. Amen. Amen.*

<sup>1</sup> This was Ralph Sheldon, of Beoley and Weston, Esquire, who died in 1684.

“Wensday 17 June 1674 my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a soñe at her Mothers house in Oxfordshire, hee was named Anthony according to y<sup>e</sup> name of his grandfather Hungerford. *Benedicat Deus. Amen.*

“Aug. 5. 1675. about 12 or one at night my daughter Lechmere was deliverd of a sonne at my house at Hanley, hee was named Nicholas according to y<sup>e</sup> name of his Grand-father Lechmere. *Benedicat Deus Amen.*<sup>1</sup>

“Sunday. April 22. 1677. about 11 at night my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a soñe at my house at Hanley. hee was named Edmund, according to y<sup>e</sup> name of his father, great grandfather, and grandfathers Grandfather. *Benedicat Deus Amen.*

“Aug. or Sept. 1677, I built the new pigeon house of brick.

“This winter 1677, I inclosed y<sup>e</sup> colepit close in Northfield w<sup>th</sup> a ditch & quickset hedge.

“Tuesday. 9 Jul. 1678. my daughter Isabella was married to M<sup>r</sup> Richard Barneby of Brockhampton coñ Heref. *Benedicat Deus Amen.*<sup>2</sup>

“Sunday Morning Jul. 21, 1678. about one of y<sup>e</sup> clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a soñe at my house at Hanley. hee was named William.<sup>3</sup> *Benedicat Deus Amen.*

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Lord Lechmere.

<sup>2</sup> The P. R. of Hanley says July 14, 1678.

<sup>3</sup> He died, unmarried, Sept. 26, 1725.

“ About ten at night, 11 Nov. 1679. my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a daughter at my house at Hanley. shee was named Lucy (her Mothers name). *Benedicat Deus Amen.*<sup>1</sup>

“ April. 1680. I built y<sup>e</sup> new round pigeon house. timber & workmanship cost 16<sup>l</sup>.

“ December 21, 1680, my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a daughter at my house at Hanley named Penelope. She married William Scudamore Esq. of Kentchurch co<sup>n</sup> Hereford.<sup>2</sup>

“ In the yeare 1681, I built y<sup>e</sup> new Malt-house & brew-house. this yeare I sold the Mannor of Middleton in y<sup>e</sup> pish of Bitterly in Shropshire and shortly after pchased y<sup>e</sup> Mannor fladbury in Worc'shire.

“ June 18th 1683. my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a soñe named Thomas. *Benedicat Deus Amen.*<sup>3</sup>

“ I sold y<sup>e</sup> Mann' of Fladbury to y<sup>e</sup> Earle of Plymouth.

“ 15, January 1683. I pchased y<sup>e</sup> Mannor of Holdfaſt.

“ 3. Sept. 1686. I pchased of Thomas Hornyold Esq. & Rob<sup>t</sup> Hornyold his soñe the Reversion of y<sup>e</sup> 21 acres in West-

<sup>1</sup> Added in a later hand:—“ Shee married Henry Biggs Esq<sup>r</sup>: of Benthall in the County of Salop: 8. June 1699. She died 26, June 1758.”

<sup>2</sup> This entry is in a later hand:—“ She was married 20 Nov: 1701. and died in 1737.”

<sup>3</sup> “ Mr Thos<sup>s</sup> Lechmere died at Boston in New England, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1765. He was Surveyor General of the King's Customs for the Northern diſtrict of America, and ancestor of the American branch of the family, ſtill, I believe, exiſting. There is a piece of land in Hanley called NEW ENGLAND, planted with oaks, the ſeeds of which were ſent from America by Thomas Lechmere in January, 1733-4. He married Anne Winthrop.”

more expectant upō the death of John Surman & one John Balliger.

“ Oct. 6. 1686. This day at y<sup>e</sup> generall quarter Sessions of y<sup>e</sup> peace held before the right hōble the Earle of Plymouth Lord Lieutn̄t of y<sup>e</sup> county of Worc<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Street knight one of his Māties Justices of y<sup>e</sup> Court of Common Pleas, S<sup>r</sup> Francis Russell Bart: S<sup>r</sup> Francis Rous Baronet, S<sup>r</sup> Rowland Barkley K<sup>nt</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Haslewood K<sup>nt</sup> Samuel Sandys W<sup>m</sup> Bromley Henry Jeffreys Henry Townsende Esq<sup>rs</sup>. & other Justices was exhibited by S<sup>r</sup> Edward Dingley my kinsman whō I had raised out of y<sup>e</sup> dirt frō a poore aūuity of 25<sup>l</sup> p añ during his life & that upō a defective title, a most malitious accusation against my soñe tending to his utter ruine but by the good hand of Gods providence upon us (of which I have had frequent experience & of w<sup>ch</sup> may neyther I nor my posterity bee ever forgetful) and by the Justice of the Court and the apparent malice of the informer W<sup>m</sup> R. & the psecutor S<sup>r</sup> E. D. y<sup>e</sup> designe was disappointed & my soñe discharged to the shame of the most ungratefull wretch S<sup>r</sup> Edw. D. if any shame bee in him. *Laus Deo in eternum.*

“ January y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1686 about nine at night my daughter Lechmere was delivered of a soñe named Richard.<sup>1</sup> *Benedicat Deus.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richard Lechmere was the ancestor of the Lechmeres of Steeple Afton in Oxfordshire; he married Elizabeth Corfield, widow of Thomas Swift, and died 28 January, 1774.

<sup>2</sup> Here some details as to small purchases in Hanley are omitted.

“ Friday. 25. April. 1689. I recd his Ma<sup>ties</sup> writ under y<sup>e</sup> great Seale of England commanding mee to prepare myself to take y<sup>e</sup> state and degree of a Sergeant at Law *a die paschæ in unum mensū. Teste apud Westm. 11 Apr. Año Regni nři primo.*

“ May. 1. 1689. I appeared in Chancery upon this Writ & at y<sup>e</sup> barr of y<sup>t</sup> Courte I tooke y<sup>e</sup> oath of a Sergeant at law. S<sup>r</sup> Henry Pollexfen (the Kings Attorney) was first sworn, & I next, & then y<sup>e</sup> rest according to theyr antiquity. y<sup>e</sup> oath was read to us severally by M<sup>r</sup>. Barker Clerke of y<sup>e</sup> Crowne in Chancery. Noe other oath was administered to any of us.

“ Wensday. 8. May. I recd my patent to bee a Baron of the Excheq<sup>r</sup>, it was delivered mee at y<sup>e</sup> Lord Comissioner Maynards house in Lincolne’s Inne fields. I then tooke y<sup>e</sup> oath of a Baron, read to mee by M<sup>r</sup> Hall of the kings remembrancers office. I then also tooke y<sup>e</sup> oaths p<sup>r</sup>scribed by y<sup>e</sup> Act of 1. Gulielmi et M. intituled an Act for abrogatinge y<sup>e</sup> oaths of supremacy & allegiance & appointing other oaths.

“ May. 24. I recd theyr Ma<sup>ties</sup> Writ for attendance in y<sup>e</sup> house of peers. & accordingly I attended that day. w<sup>ch</sup> day his Ma<sup>ry</sup> in his robes of state and crown on his head came into y<sup>e</sup> house of peers & taking his place under y<sup>e</sup> cloath of state y<sup>e</sup> comions attending wh<sup>t</sup> theyr Speaker at y<sup>e</sup> barr, his Ma<sup>ry</sup> gave his Royall assent to 3 bills, 1. for indulgence to Dissenting p<sup>r</sup>testants, y<sup>e</sup> second for reversing y<sup>e</sup> attainer of the Lady Lisle beheaded by Jeffreys in y<sup>e</sup> West, & the third for felling some houses at Piccadilly formerly belonging to M<sup>r</sup> H. Coventry.

“ Tuesday. 3. June. 1690. my deare wife dyed at her lodg-

ings in Devonshire Square London, being then of y<sup>e</sup> age of 73 yeares. Shee was buried in y<sup>e</sup> church of S<sup>t</sup> Anne Aldersgate according to her owne desire, it being the place of her birth, & in w<sup>ch</sup> Church shee was baptized.<sup>1</sup>

“ 1. May. 1693. My 2 grandsoñes Anthony & Nicolas were admitted into y<sup>e</sup> middle Temple. *Benedicat Deus.*”

[The above is the last entry in the autograph of S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Lechmere; what follows is in that of his daughter in law, Mrs. Lucy Lechmere, who for a short time appears to have continued the Journal.]

“ Thurſday night neare Eleven of y<sup>e</sup> clock, Apr: 30<sup>th</sup> 1701, dyed my worthy good ffather in law S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Lechmere, at his house in Hanly Castle, and was buried in y<sup>e</sup> outer Chancell of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> church on y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> of May at twelve of y<sup>e</sup> clock at n<sup>t</sup> w<sup>th</sup>out a coffin; according to his own direction; he was then in y<sup>e</sup> 88<sup>th</sup> yeare of his age. he was a man of great piety & learning & kind to all.”

Although it cannot be denied that Sir Nicholas Lechmere, or Judge Lechmere, as he is now generally remembered, was something of a time-server, and was not always loyal to the Crown, yet he was not only a great and eloquent lawyer, but also an amiable and kind-hearted man; nor should his descendants ever forget the obligations they owe him, who was the

<sup>1</sup> Sir Nicholas Lechmere had also two other grand-daughters whom he has omitted to mention, Rachel and Margaret; the first married Welwyn Shepherd; the second, in 1721, Henry Rider, Clerk; Rachel was baptized Oct. 21, 1684; Margaret was born about October, 1690.

Restorer of the fortunes of the family, as well as the careful chronicler of the annals of former times. An early proof of his labours in this direction is contained in the following letter, written from the Middle Temple : " To the right wor<sup>ll</sup> my honoured friend Thomas Habington Esq at Hinlip." This must have been before 1647, when Mr. Habington, the Worcestershire antiquary, died. He had been confined to that county, as is well known, in consequence of his participation in the Gunpowder Plot, and amused himself by making collections for the " History of Worcestershire," now preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries.

" Noble S'. The respect you did mee in the letter you were pleased to send mee, and the other favours I have formerly receaved from you, commaunds my best service to you and yours ; and for your kinswoman the bearer I shall readily give her what assistance I am able, but since shee deliver'd your lie, I never heard of her, soe that to the merits of her cause I can yet say litle.

" What you have written concerning our family is I conceive according to truth, but a match or two w<sup>th</sup> the daughters and coheires of Whitmore and de Rupe, for w<sup>ch</sup> our evidences are plaine, it seemes you have not been hitherto informed of : all the alteration I desire is onely this, that you would bee pleaf'd to remember us in the forme here underwritten, a forme agreeing in substance w<sup>th</sup> your owne, but more expressely alliancing us to some noble houfes, w<sup>th</sup> a litle taking notice of our armes and the pleasantnesse of our homestall.

**LECHMERE.**

“ Eastward in this parish towards the river of Severne is the pleasant seat of the Lechmeres, a family very auncient there, they came in w<sup>th</sup> the Conquest, as appeareth in an authentick record in fflaunders, the copy whereoff I have inserted in this booke,<sup>1</sup> and by theyr continuaunce here to this day have given theyr name to Lechmeres place in Hanley ; they have match'd with the daughters and coheires of Whitmore and de Rupe or Rock, as likewise w<sup>th</sup> ffrere, descending by marriages from fundry knights, and likewise from Dineley, extracted from very many noble houfes, as Nevill lords Abergavenny, Windsor & others ; and last of all w<sup>th</sup> a daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Overbury knight : theyr armes I am inform'd are *Gules a fesse or, in chief two pelicans of the second.* These few lines I write, as well to manifest a trueth, as allso in requitall of M<sup>r</sup> Edmund Lechmeres fr<sup>al</sup> friendship to mee in my greatest and most daungerous troubles.<sup>2</sup>

“ And now Sir tis time to crave your pardon for the great trouble I cast upon you in reading this l<sup>fe</sup>, w<sup>ch</sup> is wholly imploy'd about myself. I shall wait for an opportunity to exprefse my thanks to you, and soe for the preſent I take my leave and ref<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> your moſt humble Servant, Nic: Lechmere.—Mid Temple.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There is no ſuch copy in the original MS.

<sup>2</sup> This refers, no doubt, to the Gunpowder Plot.

<sup>3</sup> Sealed with the ſingle arms of Lechmere.

Of Edmund Lechmere, Esquire, the eldest son of Sir Nicholas, who survived his father but two years, his widow (Lucy Hungerford) has left us the following agreeable character, which she wrote at the time of his decease in the family chronicle :—

“ Sunday Morning neare 8 of y<sup>e</sup> clock Jan: 6<sup>th</sup> 1703 at y<sup>e</sup> house of Alderman Gibbs in Bath, dyed my deare & loveing husband Edm<sup>d</sup> Lechmere Esq<sup>r</sup> in the 55 yeare of his age, upon y<sup>e</sup> 12 day of y<sup>e</sup> same month he was brought to his own house at Hanly; and from thence caryed to y<sup>e</sup> f<sup>d</sup> Parish Church where about 9 a clock at n<sup>t</sup> he was buried neare to his ffa: S<sup>r</sup> N : L: he was a most kind & Loving husband, an Indulgent ffather, a most Admirable Majestrate, never wanting to his neighbours but allways redy to Assift them in whatever their occasions required, and perticularly y<sup>e</sup> poorer fort, who, I have often hard him say he look’t upon to be his chiefe concern to take care of; not only in his advice; but his pockett was allways oppen to relieve those he thōt wanted. he was a pyous good Xian, & I beseech y<sup>e</sup> Lord to grant y<sup>e</sup> Children (w<sup>ch</sup> are ten, 6 sons 4 daughters) he has left behind him may endeoure to tredd in his steps, & I pray God to bless them.”

The last entry in the Judge’s Book was also written by Mrs. Lucy Lechmere, whose orthography is somewhat faulty; it relates to the great storm of 1703, and is as follows :—

“ Nov: 26<sup>th</sup> 1703 upon this morning at 1 of the clock & till after five was the most dredfullest storm of Wynd (& by

many thōt an earthquake) that ever was hard in England, in all parts y<sup>e</sup> people suffer'd greatly, both in their houſing & trees, but more at ſea by loſs of many men of Warr & Merchants ſhips; & ſeverall thouſand men lost their lives."

Madam Lucy Lechmere, widow, was buried November

17, 1729.<sup>1</sup> Anthony, eldeſt ſon of Edmund Lechmere and Lucy Hungerford, married Anne daughter of Thomas Foley, of Stoke Edith, in the county of Hereford, Esq., by whom he had iſſue two children, Edmund and Lucy.<sup>2</sup> He died at the age of forty-six, and is buried at Hanley, where a Latin inscription records his many virtues.<sup>3</sup> His loſs is also re-corded on the cover of the old Register of the parish of Severn Stoke in Worcesterſhire, in the following words:—

“ Honest inienious Anthony Lechmere Esq<sup>r</sup> was well at his Church at Hanley Castle, Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>1 9</sup>/<sub>2 0</sub> and ſang Psalm, on y<sup>e</sup> morrow feb: 8, at dinner time he dyed of an apoplexy, and was buried privately at 7 at night Thursday Feb: 11, 17<sup>1 9</sup>/<sub>2 0</sub> to y<sup>e</sup> great loſs of all honest people in y<sup>e</sup> Country.”

Nicholas, ſecond ſon of Edmund Lechmere and Lucy Hun-

<sup>1</sup> P. R. Hanley-Caſtle. The pulpit cloth ſtill in uſe in Hanley Church was given by Mrs. Lucy Lechmere; it is of fine crimson velvet, and orna-mented with her arms, embroidered with gold and colours.

<sup>2</sup> Lucy Lechmere married Rowland Berkeley of Cotheridge, Esquire.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 69.



Lechmere, impaling, argent,  
a fess engrailed,  
between three  
cinqefoils sable,  
all within a  
border of the  
loſt.  
Foley.

gerford, was, like his brother Anthony, bred to the law, and greatly distinguished himself as an Advocate. His career was, however, in danger of being cut off in January, 1693, when he nearly died of the small-pox, being at that time nineteen years of age. He was attended by Dr. Morton, and "the excellent D' Cole." He had the advantage of having administered to him "*compound Powder of Crabs Claws & Eyes*," as well as "*The ashes or powder of Toads*,"<sup>1</sup> and the result was, whether from these remedies or the strength of his constitution, all that could be wished.

In the reign of George I., Nicholas Lechmere rose rapidly to distinction. In 1717, March 14, he was appointed Solicitor-General, and the same year, June 12, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for life. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Lechmere of Evesham, August 25, 1721. He married, in 1719, the Lady Elizabeth Howard, eldest of the three daughters of Charles, Earl of Carlisle,<sup>2</sup> and died, without issue, June 18, 1727. Lord Lechmere, though an excellent lawyer, was violent and overbearing. He was one of the managers against Dr. Sacheverell, and moved the impeachment against Lord Der-



Lechmere, impaling, gules a bend, between six cross-crofflets fitché argent, on the bend an escutcheon or, charged with a demi lion rampant, pierced through the mouth with an arrow, within a double tressure flory counter flory of the first, a mullet for difference. Howard.

<sup>1</sup> From the original receipt *penes* Sir E. L., Bart.

<sup>2</sup> She remarried Sir Thomas Robinson, of Rokeby, in the County of York, Bart. She died in 1739.

wentwater, one of the (so-called) rebel lords. For his indecent intrusions into the King's Closet see Coxe's "History of Sir Robert Walpole" (i. p. 264); and Swift's works for the ballad called "*Duke upon Duke*," a ludicrous account of a quarrel between Lord Lechmere and Sir John Guise, said to be written by Gay. His portrait is in the great gallery at Northwick, three-quarters length, dressed in purple, with a very large dark wig. Lord Lechmere died at Camden House, of apoplexy, while at table, and was buried at Hanley, where a slab is inscribed to his memory.<sup>1</sup>

Edmund, third son of Edmund Lechmere and Lucy Hungerford, deserves also some notice here. His services to his country will be best understood from the following inscription from a monument in St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth:—  
 "Near this place is interr'd the body of CAPT EDMUND LECHMERE, formerly Commander of Her Majesty's Ship Lynn, and late of the Lyme Frigat of 32 guns: on Boord of which he departed this life y<sup>e</sup> sixteenth of January, 1703, of the wounds he received the fifteenth in an Engagement with a French Privateer, of 46 guns; from whom he protected a large fleet of Merchant ships, all into safety, and then bravely

<sup>1</sup> "1727. The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Nicholas L<sup>d</sup> Lechmere was buried July 2<sup>d</sup> from Campden House in Kensington. Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> forfeiture 2<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> poor for his being buried in a coffin covered with velvet."—*P. R. Hanley-Castle*.

<sup>2</sup> This monument fell down about the year 1843, but has been since that time well restored by the parochial authorities.

gave the Enemy battle, and forced Him to bear away with very much damage. He was in the beginning of the Action, wounded in both knees, and afterwards received a musquet shot thro' his Body, yet by neither discouraged from prosecuting y<sup>m</sup> with y<sup>e</sup> utmost vigour. Thus fell this brave man, who in his early years had as well by the constancy of his good discipline and prudent conduct as by his intrepid gallantry in this and several other actions, rendered himself famous in many parts of the world, servicable to his Queen and Country; highly esteem'd by the Commanders of the Fleet; entirely belov'd by the Seamen; and universally lamented by all that knew him. He was third son of Edmund Lechmere of Hanley Castle in the County of Worcester Esq<sup>r</sup> by Lucy his wife, Daughter of Anthony Hungerford, of Farleigh Castle in the County of Somerset Esq<sup>r</sup>. Anno Ætatis 27.<sup>1</sup>

Edmund, only son of Anthony Lechmere and Anne Foley, who was born April 4, and baptized at Hanley, April 13, 1710,<sup>2</sup> married early in life (Oct. 12, 1732) Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Blundel Charlton, of Ludford, in the County of Hereford, Baronet. Their issue, taken from a Family Bible now at The Rhyd,<sup>3</sup> was as follows:—

“ Nicholas Lechmere, son of Edmund Lechmere Esq<sup>r</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> There is a sea-chest at The Rhyd which belonged to Captain Edmund Lechmere.

<sup>2</sup> P. R. Hanley.

<sup>3</sup> Barker's Folio Bible, 16oz.



Lechmere, impaling, or a lion rampant, gules. Charlton.

Elizabeth his wife, was born on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 1733, between 7 & 8 o'clock in the eveni<sup>n</sup>, at the house of M<sup>r</sup> John Hunt, Attorney at Law, in the parish of S<sup>t</sup> Swithin in the City of Worcester, and Baptized the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January following, by the Rev: M<sup>r</sup> Dennies, vic : of Swithin afors<sup>d</sup>: His Sponsors were, The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Tho: Foley Esq<sup>r</sup> Audi<sup>r</sup> of the Impres<sup>s</sup>, & Paul Foley Esq<sup>r</sup> : of Newport in the County of Hereford, and Lady Charlton of Ludford.

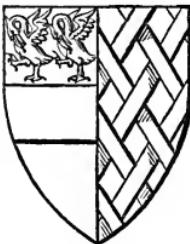
“ Edmund, son of Edmund Lechmere Esq<sup>r</sup>: and Elizabeth his wife, was born at Hanley-Castle, on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1747, between 2 & 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and baptized in the parish Church of Hanley afores<sup>d</sup> by the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Brooke upon Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October following. His Godfathers were Tho<sup>s</sup> Foley Esq<sup>r</sup> of Stoke-Edith in the County of Hereford, and Richard Lechmere Esq<sup>r</sup> of the City of Worc<sup>r</sup>, both in person, & M<sup>rs</sup> Lechmere of London, Godmother, by her proxy M<sup>rs</sup> E<sup>m</sup>ma Charlton.

“ M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Lechmere died upon Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 1762, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at her Lodgings upon Clifton Hill, near the Hott Well Bristol, and was buried at Hanley Castle, on Tuesday the 21 of September following.”

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1765, M<sup>r</sup> Lechmere remarried Elizabeth daughter of the Rev. John Whitmore, Vicar of Lechlade in Gloucestershire. They had issue an only son, born November 2, 1766, “ being Sunday Morning, between 3 & 4 o'clock,” baptized the same day at Hanley, and christened Anthony.

In his younger days in 1734, and again in 1741, M<sup>r</sup> Lechmere represented his native County in Parliament, and was throughout his life of much consideration in Worcestershire. His grandson, the late Sir Edmund Lechmere, remembered him well, and has preserved many curious particulars of his latter days, and the patriarchal state in which he lived. He draws a pleasant picture of this fine old English gentleman, surrounded by his family and tenants, somewhat choleric in temper, and strict in the discipline which he kept up in his household: but withall a liberal and humane master, his dependents growing grey in his service. His second wife was a most admirable woman, "whose simplicity and kindness attracted the respect of all who approached her. Her religion was sincere and fervent, without pretence; her charity unstentatious and universal, extending not only to almsgiving but to covering the failings of others."

Mr. Lechmere survived till his ninety-fifth year, departing this life in April, 1805. He was buried at Hanley on the 5th of April, 1805.<sup>1</sup> Upon his decease the ancient house of Lechmere was divided; the representation of the family, indeed, and the possession of Hanley or Severn-End, devolved upon his eldest son, Nicholas, who had taken his mother's name of Charlton in addition to his own, and was generally known



Lechmere, impaling, *vert*  
*fretty or.*  
Whitmore.

<sup>1</sup> P. R. Hanley-Castle.

as Colonel Lechmere Charlton. He resided at Ludford, where he died in 1807, having been for twenty-four years Colonel of the Worcester Militia. He married Susannah, daughter of Jeffson Cafe, of Powyck, Esq., by whom he had issue two sons and one daughter—Edmund, born 20th September, 1789, died 1845; Francis, born 19th November, 1790, who died unmarried 21st May, 1857; and Emma, who died in 1809.

Edmund, next brother of Colonel Lechmere Charlton, was a man of superior talents and of considerable taste and reading. He was bred to the law, and represented the city of Worcester in Parliament in 1774. He died before his father, at Edinburgh, in November, 1798, without issue.

Anthony, only issue of Mr. Lechmere by his second wife, succeeded to all the unentailed property of the family in the county of Worcester, and after his father's death took up his residence at The Rhyd, a picturesque seat on the banks of the Severn, within the parish of Hanley.

In 1818 he attracted the attention of the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., who, 10th December, created him a Baronet, having met him at Croome, the seat of Lord Coventry, and been much struck with his appearance as a fine specimen of a country gentleman. He married at Hanley Church, 15th May, 1787, Mary, daughter of Joseph Berwick, of Worcester, Esq., by whom he had a numerous

Lechmere, impaling, *argent*, three bears' heads erased *sable*, muzzled, *gules*, Berwick.



issue. She died 3rd of December, 1820, and was buried on the 11th of that month at Hanley-Castle. Sir Anthony Lechmere remarried, 8th September, 1823, Elianor, daughter of Mr. Bayley Villiers, of Gloucester. She died 20th Aug., 1837, having had issue one son, William Henry, born 15th Oct., 1825; he died 2nd March, 1857, and was buried at Hanley. Sir Anthony died on the 25th of March, 1849, and was also there interred.

Mr. Edmund Lechmere Charlton, the eldest son of Colonel Lechmere Charlton, died unmarried.

In the year 1830 he sold, to a Mr. Paget, the Severn-End estate, the venerable inheritance of his ancestors, which was after the lapse of twenty-two years repurchased by the late Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere, on the 2nd of November, 1852.

The children of Sir Anthony Lechmere by his first wife Mary were :—

1. Sarah, born 2 May, 1788; died 13 Feb., 1864, and buried at Hanley.
2. Eliza-Anne, born 11 Aug., 1789; married 14 Feb., 1847, Samuel Wall, of Worthy Park, Hants, Esq.; she died 26 Dec., 1875, and is buried at Hanley.
3. Frances, born 14 March, 1791; died 29 Jan., 1847, buried at Hanley.
4. Edmund-Hungerford, born 25 May, 1792.
5. Mary-Foley, born 16 Aug., 1799; died 24 Feb., 1803.
6. Anthony-Berwick, born 28 Sept., 1802; Vicar of

Hanley-Castle, Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral, and Rural Dean; married, 11 Oct., 1840, Emily Mary, daughter of Sir Harry Darell, Bart. She died 20 Aug., 1857, f. p. The Rev. Mr. Lechmere died 8 Oct., 1878.

7. Jemima-Isabella, born 30 July, 1804.
8. Georgiana-Felicia, born 11 June, 1806.
9. Emma-Catherine, born 20 May, 1809; married, 9 Aug., 1852, William Candler, Com. R.N. He died 8 April, 1865.

Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere, 2nd Baronet, married, 22 June, 1819, the Hon. Maria Clara, Maid of Honour to

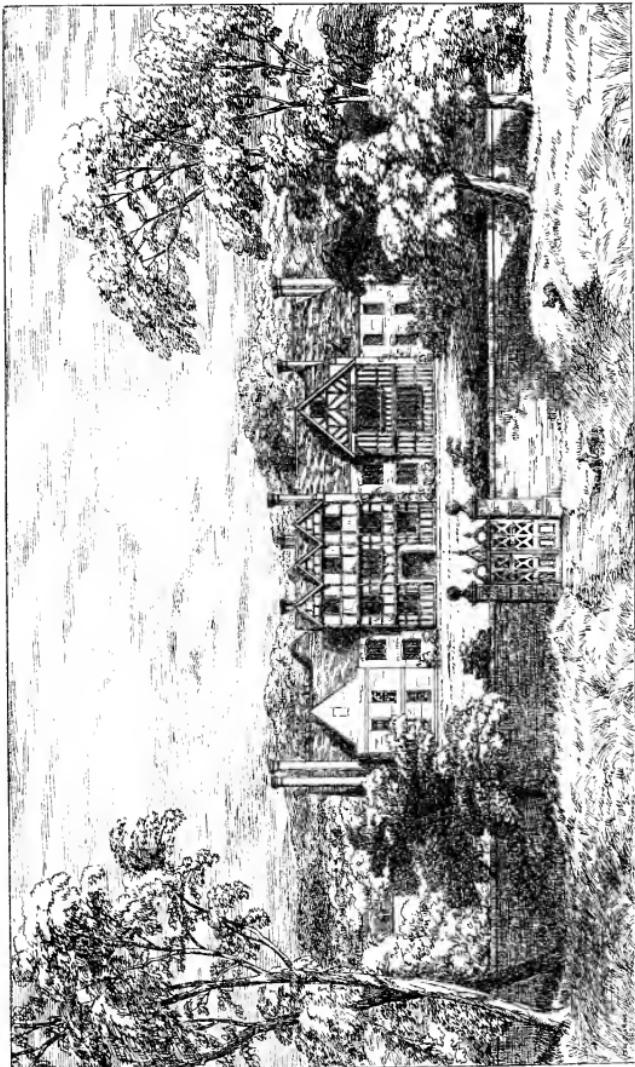
Queen Charlotte, and daughter of the Hon. David Murray, of the Elibank family. She died 29 Jan., 1865. Sir Edmund died 2 April, 1856; both were buried at Hanley. They had issue:—



1. Mary-Clara-Elizabeth, born 22 Oct., 1823; married, 4 Aug., 1842, Evelyn Philip Shirley, of Ettington, in the County of Warwick, and Lough Fea, in the County of Monaghan, Esquire.
2. Edmund-Anthony-Harley, born 8 Dec., 1826, 3rd and present Baronet; married, 30 Sept., 1858, Louisa Rosamond Katharine, only surviving child of John Haigh, of Whitwell Hall, Yorkshire, Esq.
3. Louisa-Augusta, born 9 Feb., 1829; married, 17 July, 1858, Monsieur Lambert Louis D'Arras, of St. Valerie, in Picardy.

Lechmere, impaling, *azur* three mullets within a double treasure of Scotland, *argent* a martlet *or*.  
Murray.





WESTERN FRONT OF SEVERN END

AS IT APPEARED IN 1803

FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE SIR EDMUND HUNGERFORD LECHMERE

The children of Sir E. A. H. Lechmere are:—

1. Alice-Mary, born 9 March, and died 3 Dec., 1862.  
Buried at Hanley.

2. Reginald-Hungerford, born 14 Jan.,  
died 1 March, 1864.

3. Edmund-Arthur, born 21 Sept., 1865.

4. Anthony-Hungerford, born 15 July,  
1868.

5. Joscelyne-Alban, born 19 Dec., 1871.

6. Katharine-Mary, born 28 Feb., 1875.

7. Nicholas-George-Berwick, born 20 Sept., 1881.



Lechmere, impaling, *azur*,  
a *saltire* be-  
tween in *chief*  
a *crescent* re-  
vered, in *dexter*  
*jeſs* a *decreſcent*,  
in *finiſher* *jeſs*  
an *increſcent*,  
and in *bafe* a  
*crescent* *argent*.  
Haigh.

#### OF THE ANCIENT SEAT OF THE LECHMERES, NOW CALLED SEVERN END.

The description which follows of this old house is principally from the pen of the late Sir Edmund Lechmere; it was written about the year 1854.

The ancient seat of the Lechmeres stands upon a bank overhanging flat and spacious meadows on its eastern front, through which the Severn, almost concealed by the marly shores, flows towards Upton, whose church is seen to the S.E. On the opposite shores are the woods of a part of Croome domain, encircling the pleasant retreat called Severn Bank, belonging to Lord Coventry. A few old stag-headed oaks, the venerable lords of the soil, diversify the green expanse. The situation did not escape the quick eye of

Horace Walpole as he travelled between Worcester and Upton in September, 1753. He notes Mr. Lechmere's house, and playfully adds that "he had given strict charge to a troop of willows never to let him see the river. To his right hand extends the finest meadow covered with cattle that ever you saw; at the end of it is the Town of Upton, with a church half ruined, and a bridge of six arches, which I believe with little trouble he might see from his garden."<sup>1</sup>

The centre of the house is chiefly in the black and white timber and plaster style, with gables ornamented with wooden carvings and embossed leaden spouts. The delicate carving of the brackets carrying the overhanging soffits to each floor, and the very curious cast-lead cresting to the gables deserves attention. This part of the house was probably built about 1580. In the centre is a massive door studded with iron knobs, opening to a passage, on the left of which are the servants' hall and domestic offices; on the right, a small panelled hall conducting to the best apartments. A corresponding door at the end of the passage opens to a formal garden. Some fragments of heads near the entrance, and some appearances of a stone foundation, indicate remains of an earlier period. The wings of brick, having each three gables on which are shields bearing the date [1673], shut in on either side a formal court, formed by an iron palisade, in the centre of which is a florid iron gate, the pillars on either side sur-

<sup>1</sup> Horace Walpole to Bentley, Sept., 1753.

mounted by a lion and a dog carved in stone. The west side of the house is less regular, and chiefly presents a mass of unequal gables of black and white, more or less ornamented with carved mouldings. Here was the principal flower-garden, laid out in formal parterres, some of them edged with box, and laid out in patterns of curious design. This garden was shut in by walls covered with grapes, plums, or cherries, having four doors, one at each corner; one opening to a chicken court, the others for gardens appointed for fruits and other produce, according to their aspects. In the centre of the wall, opposite to the house door, was a lofty gate of massive woodwork, conducting to a crescent-shaped avenue of elms, about three-quarters of a mile long, with a pathway underneath leading to the village of Hanley.<sup>1</sup> Colonies of rooks had long found a refuge in the overhanging branches, which formed an arched canopy, resembling the long perspective of a Gothic aisle. Here had once been a deer-park, dissparkled by Mr. Lechmere, the father of Sir Anthony, about the year 1790, and the deer sent to Ludford, the Charlton seat in Herefordshire. The park was at that time divided into enclosures, and many of the trees removed. Sun-dials, raised terraces approached by flights of steps, thick hornbeam hedges, and here and there a summer-house, besides the Judge's study in the south-east angle, were the other characteristics of these gardens. The Malvern Hills shut in the prospect. A vast

<sup>1</sup> Planted by the Judge in 1641 and 1650.

range of barns, granaries, stables, and brew-houses—indicative of large consumption and of prevailing hospitality—occupied an ample space close to the house on the north side, and from thence was a road leading to other nurseries, or gardens and orchards, celebrated for the variety and excellence of the apples; and to barns and stalls fitted for the reception of the various kinds of grain, and for the progressive nurture and fattening of the cattle in their several stages. One, distinguished as the fattening barn, prepared many a victim for the Smithfield market.

The old house had few striking features within, nor were its arrangements convenient, or suited to modern taste. The entrance hall, it has been already stated, was not of large size, and wainscoted with oak. In the windows were the following eight coats of arms in well-designed shields, no doubt placed there by St Nicholas Lechmere:—

1. Lechmere, impaling, *vert fretty or. Whitmore.*
2. Lechmere, impaling, *azure a chevron between three dolphins embowed argent. Frere.*
3. Lechmere, impaling, *argent, a chevron engrailed, between three chess rooks, sable. Rock.*
4. Lechmere, impaling, *argent a fess sable, in chief a mullet of the second, between two ogresses. Dyneley.*
5. Lechmere, impaling, *sable, three mullets in bend argent, cotised of the second. Overbury.*
6. Lechmere, impaling, *or, a fess dancette between three croiss crofflets fitché gules. Sandys.*

7. Lechmere, impaling, *sable, two bars argent, in chief three plates.* Hungerford.

8. Lechmere, impaling, *argent, two bends indented, gules and vert.* Ruyhale.

This last impalement is, I believe, the only existing evidence of any match of the Lechmeres with the old and extinct family of Ruyhale, seated in the fourteenth century at a place of that name in Ripple.

In this hall was formerly a fine old oak table, now preserved in the dining-room at Madresfield Court. Hanging on the wall is a portrait of Edmund Lechmere, Esq., the great grandfather of the present Sir Edmund, riding a race at Newmarket. The traditional story is, that he had a dream, that (in the slang language of the turf) "*he had been sold,*" that is, that his jockey had been tampered with. He hastened to Newmarket on a fleet horse which had formerly belonged to a highwayman, and arrived there just in time to ride the race himself, which he won, and had this picture painted in commemoration of the fact.

The dining-room, adjoining the hall, is the largest room in the house. It is very low, with a heavy ceiling of stucco. Over the ample fireplace in old times hung a portrait of George I. This room is panelled with oak, painted white. Here also were the following portraits, some of which are still preserved at The Rhyd, the present and more modern seat of the family: Sir Nicholas Lechmere, the Judge, in his robes, a good portrait, marked, "*anno dñi 1694, Ætatis 81.*" Penelope Sandys,

wife of Sir Nicholas, a small whole-length in white satin. Portrait of a young man with turned-down collar, supposed to represent the Judge when young, by Vandyke (?). Edmund Lechmere, Esq., father of the Judge, in a brown dress, with beard, half-length. M<sup>rs</sup> Lucy Lechmere, daughter of Anthony Hungerford, Esq., arms in a lozenge, half-length. The above portraits are all at present in the dining-room at The Rhyd. The following are believed to be at Ludford: Anthony Lechmere, Esq., and his wife, Anne Foley, and two older portraits, marked, "His Honour Lechmere," and "Madame Lechmere," of the latter time of Elizabeth, and representing probably Edmund Lechmere and Anne Dyneley his wife.

The drawing-room, a small room in the north wing, divided from the dining-room by a lobby and heavy open staircase, was formerly hung with white embossed leather, representing the story of Meleager and Atalanta. The greater part of the building is occupied by staircases and long passages, and now and then a dark retreat or closet, formed by the superincumbent angles of the roof. The late Sir Edmund Lechmere distinctly remembered the old tapestry with which some of the rooms were hung, and the large patterns in flock paper with which others were ornamented, as well as the ancient bedsteads with massive carved testers and plumed canopies. On the staircase near the lumber-room hung portraits of Lord Lechmere and his gallant brother Captain Edmund Lechmere, killed at sea. These pictures are now at Steeple Aston in Oxfordshire, the

present seat of Mr. Ogle, whose mother was the heiress of the Lechmers of that place.

In the south-west corner of the garden still remains the pleasant and commodious study built by Judge Lechmere in the year 1661. A staircase ascends from the garden, and in the window of the upper room is the following inscription under the family arms :—

“ This study was built by Sir Nicholas Lechmere, Knight, Baron of the Exchequer, anno 1661. Having become much dilapidated, it was completely restored by his descendant Sir Edm<sup>d</sup> A. H. Lechmere, Baronet, anno 1861.”

#### INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CHURCH OF HANLEY-CASTLE AND CHURCHYARD TO THE LECHMERE FAMILY.

The church of Hanley-Castle is a picturesque building in a beautiful situation on the southern side of the village, with a fine prospect of the Malvern Hills. The double nave is of the fourteenth century, with a doorway in the south wall of Norman work. There are two chancels, built in 1674, of brick, with a heavy central tower of the same material. The church was well restored in the year 1857-8 by Sir Edmund A. H. Lechmere, in memory of his father.

The earliest of the sepulchral inscriptions to any of the Lechmere family of which we have any account, is the following, preserved in Habington's “Survey of Worcestershire,”

now in the library of the Society of Antiquaries. There are at present no remains of this inscription :—

“ In y<sup>e</sup> southe syde of y<sup>e</sup> Church, lye under a stome inlayd w<sup>th</sup> braffe y<sup>e</sup> resemblance of them whose Inscriptiōn followethe ‘Here lyeth buried under this stome the body of Richard Lechmere Gentellman, who deceased 23 Mart: 1568, leavinge behynd him Margery his Wyfe,<sup>1</sup> of whome he had towe sonnes, Richard & Edmund, and seaven daughters, ffrauncys, Joane, Elianor, Mary, ffrauncis, Mary, and Winefred, God send them a joyfull resurrection.’” There is added in a later hand, “a little of the brass of the lady remains, all the rest gone.”

The next in point of date still remains, though mutilated and misnamed, in its original position. Habington’s account is as follows :—

“ In the northe wyndowe of y<sup>e</sup> paryshe church, *azure a bend barry, indented or and gules*. Bracy of Warndon co: Wigorn: In y<sup>e</sup> north wall of this chauncell is made a Gentellwoman prayinge & over her head in a Lozeng *azure 3 broad arrowes 2 ♂ 1. or, w<sup>th</sup> a crescent for difference*. Archer. Subscribed thus :—

“ Here lyethe y<sup>e</sup> body of Anne daughter of John Archer Gentellman<sup>2</sup> and wyfe to Roger Lechmere of Fanhope (aſ Favenhope,) in y<sup>e</sup> Coñty of Hereford gentelman, by whome

<sup>1</sup> She was the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Rock, see p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> I conclude this to be Anne Savage, see p. 9, note.

he had towne sonnes Thomas & Roger, she departed this life 10 Maii an : Do : 1614." (There is added in a later hand "gone.") The effigy, however, still remains as here represented, and underneath on a tablet of apparently the eighteenth century is the following misleading inscription :—" Neare this Place Lyeth Interred the Body of M<sup>rs</sup> Winifred Lechmere, a Daughter of the Family of the Lechmeres of Fanhope in y<sup>e</sup> County of Hereford, whose Effigies this is."

On a broken slab formerly in the principal aisle of the church, but now removed to the northern, or Lechmere chancel, beneath three shields, with the arms of Lechmere and Overbury, and a blank shield :—

" EDMUND LECHMERE Esqr :  
departed this life July 31  
1650, ætatis anno 74.  
MARGARET HIS WIFE, DAVGHTER  
OF S<sup>r</sup> NICOLAS OVERBVRY K<sup>nt</sup>  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE MARCH  
14<sup>th</sup> 1634, ætatis. Anno 42,<sup>1</sup>  
both lie here buried."

In the S.E. angle of the north chancel, on a blue slab, the arms of Lechmere impaling Sandys with the Lechmere crest, on a torse a pelican, as in the arms :—<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See page 14.

<sup>2</sup> The crest of Lechmere is a *pelican azure vulning itself*, on a torse of the colours, *or* and *gules*. Since Lord Lechmere's time it is generally placed on a ducal coronet *or*.

Terra hæc servat depositum NICH<sup>I</sup>  
LECHMERE Militis ad consummationem  
Sæculi et tunc reddit.

Obiit 30 die Aprilis anno { Dñi. 1701.  
Ætat : 88.  
mifericordias Domini in Æternum  
Cantabo.

Uxorem duxit PENELOPEN, filiam  
EDWINI SANDYS de NORBORN in Com<sup>i</sup> :  
Cant: militis, ex qua numerosam  
Reliquit progeniem superstitem."

On a blue slab adjoining the last, the arms of Lechmere impaling Hungerford, with the crest as before :—

“ Hic dormit in Christo  
EDMS LECHMERE ARM.  
Filius & Hæres NICHOLAI LECHMERE Mil :  
Un' Baron Sc<sup>ii</sup> Dñi Regis GUL : tertii  
apud Westm<sup>i</sup> :  
In uxorem Duxit Luciam filiam  
ANTONII HVNGERFORD de FARELEIGH  
CASTLE in Com<sup>i</sup> : SOMERSET Arm.  
Ex qua sex filios & quatuor filias  
Habuit, & reliquit Superstites.  
Obiit 6<sup>to</sup> die Iunii Anno Dom<sup>i</sup> 1703.  
Ætatis Suæ 55<sup>o</sup>  
Fides in Patriam, Amicum & Iustum  
Incorrupta, Confidans, & Intrepida,  
Imago viventis  
Monumentum Mortui.”

On an adjoining slab, beneath the arms of Lechmere and Hungerford in a lozenge :—

“ In Memory of  
M<sup>r</sup>s LUCY LECHMERE Widow.  
Relict of EDMUND LECHMERE Esq<sup>r</sup>  
& daughter of ANTHONY HUNGERFORD  
of FARLEY CASTLE, Esq<sup>r</sup> :  
whose Piety Virtue & singular Prudence  
made Her a Blessing to her Family  
an Ornament to her Neighbourhood  
an Example to her Equals  
a Support to her Inferiors  
a Delight to all  
She died Nov : IX. Anno MDCCXXIX  
Ætatis LXXX.”

On an adjoining slab, beneath the arms of Lechmere, impaling Foley and the crest, in a ducal coronet :—

“ H.S.E.

ANTONIUS LECHMERE arm :

Quem repentinus apoplexiæ impetus e vivis rapuit,  
Feb : 8. MDCCXX Ætatis XLVI.

Perantiquæ qua oriundus erat familiae Decus ita tuebatur,  
ut majorum suorum virtutis hæres videretur nequaquam degener,  
Vir Ingenii fecunditatem et vivido animi vigore cum paucis spectabilis,  
Erga inferiores comis adeo, urbanus, humilis ;  
Inter pares adeo placidus, hilaris, decenter facetus,  
ut summam apud illos venerationem, apud hos amorem  
facillimè retineret : omnibus ob simplicem et inaffectatum  
gestum gratissimus.

Irenarchæ munus non prius suscepit quam ornavit,  
Seditionis furorem cohibere, de tumultuantibus supplicium sumere,  
nec minus salutem publicam promovere, quam pacem conservare.  
Inter litigantes vicinos benevolentiam restituere,  
et inimicos amicissimos facere, Hic illi labor erat, hæc gloria.  
Inclytis senatorum ordinibus aliquamdiu ascriptus,  
Sacra principis jura et inviolandas populi libertates,

constanter simul ac integerrime vindicando de patria optime meruit.  
 In matrimonio habuit Annam Thomæ Foley de Stoke Edith in agro  
 Herefordiensi armi : filiam.  
 Ex quo duo liberi, Edmundus, et Lucia, suscepiti,  
 charissimo patri supersunt."

On a slab adjoining that of Sir Nicholas Lechmere, the arms of Lechmere impaling Howard, with a Baron's coronet, the supporters two leopards reguardant, ducally gorged, the crest on a ducal coronet :—

“Here lyeth the Body of the Right Honourable  
 NICHOLAS LORD LECHMERE, Baron of Evesham,  
 Chancellour of the Duchy of LANCASTER and one of his MAJESTY's  
 Most Honourable PRIVY COUNSELL.

He was second Son to EDMUND LECHMERE Esq<sup>r</sup> by  
 Lucy his wife Daughter of ANTHO. HUNGERFORD

Of Farley CASTLE, in the County of Somerset Esq<sup>r</sup>

He married LADY ELIZ : HOWARD, Eldest daughter to the  
 Right Honourable the EARL of CARLISLE  
 Dyed 18<sup>th</sup> June 1727. ann : ætat : 52.”

On an adjoining slab, arms of Lechmere, crest on a tower :—

“Here lyeth the Body of WILLIAM LECHMERE  
 Esq<sup>r</sup> the fourth son of EDMUND LECHMERE  
 of Hanly Castle in the County of Worcester  
 Esq<sup>r</sup> by Lucy his Wife ; He departed this  
 Life, the twenty sixth day of September,  
 1725. Anno Ætatis 47.”

On a tablet at the east end of the north aisle is an inscription to the memory of Captain Edmund Lechmere, who died in 1703, and is buried at St. Andrew's Church in Plymouth. This is not copied, as it is precisely the same with the inscription already given at page 52.

On slabs at the north-eastern corner of the north chancel :—

“ HERE LIE THE REMAINS OF WILLIAM LECHMERE ESQ<sup>r</sup>  
OF STEEPLE ASTON IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD,  
VICE ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE.

WHO DIED 12TH day of DECEMBER, 1815. AGED 63.”

“ UNDERNEATH ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARY BARONESS DE SAUMAREZ  
WIFE OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE & REV<sup>d</sup>  
JAMES, SECOND LORD DE SAUMAREZ,  
AND DAUGHTER OF VICE ADMIRAL LECHMERE  
WHO DIED AFTER A FEW DAYS ILLNESS AT CHELTENHAM  
ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 1849, aged 58.”

“ Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour  
wherein the Son of Man cometh. Matt. c. 25. v. 13.”

“ In Memory of  
Sir Antony Lechmere Bart.

Died March 25<sup>th</sup> 1849

Aged 82 years

And of Mary his wife

Died December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1820

Aged 51 years

Also of Mary Foley

Their daughter

Died February 1803

Aged 3 years

And of Frances

Their daughter

Died January 29<sup>th</sup> 1847

Aged 56 years.”

Engraved on brass fixed to a black marble tablet at the  
eastern end of the north chancel, under the arms of Lech-  
mere :—

“ NEAR THIS SPOT REST THE MORTAL REMAINS OF  
RICHARD LECHMERE Esq of Wick, Parish of St Johns Cy Worcester (youngest

brother of NICHOLAS LORD LECHMERE BARON OF Evesham) born Jany 25<sup>th</sup> 1686, died Jany 28<sup>th</sup>, 1774. He was for some years Secretary to the British Embassay at the Court of Russia. Also those of his wife ELIZABETH, died March 21, 1781. She was the Relict of Thos<sup>s</sup> Swift Esq<sup>r</sup> of Slaughters Court, Powicke, Cy Worcester, having by her first marriage one son. From her second marriage, there was issue, viz: WILLIAM LECHMERE, Esq Vice Admiral of the White, NICHOLAS, who died on his estate in the Island of Jamaica, Lucy, who married Col: Thompkins of Weston Turville House Cy Buckingham, ELIZABETH, who married Thos<sup>s</sup> Tudor Esq<sup>r</sup> of Garth Cy Montgomery and died leaving issue.

HERE ALSO REST THE MORTAL REMAINS OF

WILLIAM LECHMERE Esq<sup>r</sup>: (son of the above named Richard LECHMERE) who after long and meritorious service in the wars of his Country, rose to the High Rank in his Profession of Vice Admiral of the White. He died Dec: 12<sup>th</sup>, 1815, at his Residence, the Hill House, Steeple Aston, Cy of Oxford. VICE-ADMIRAL LECHMERE married at St Martins in the Fields London, Oct 31, 1787, Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Dashwood King Bart: of West Weycombe House cy: Buckingham. Elizabeth his widow who survived him for seven years & died at Staverton Cy of Northampton and was buried at Halton Cy of Buckingham, one of the ancient seats of her Family. From this marriage there were ten children, of whom Lucy born Aug: 13, 1788, married Richard Parkinson Esq of Kinnerley Castle Cy of Hereford, died and was buried at Hereford, leaving issue a son & daughter, CHARLES born Dec: 4 1789 a Captain in the Royal Navy, whose zeal & enterprize (after he had seen much previous Service,) induced him to engage in a Survey of the Eastern Coast of Africa, where he died Nov: 9. 1822, on board H.M.S. Leven, of a fever which carried off many of the officers & crews of the two ships engaged in that service. MARY BARONESS DE SAUMAREZ born, Ap: 2, 1791. Over a vault near this spot is a slab inscribed to her memory. WILLIAM born Jan<sup>y</sup> 19, 1795, who died an Infant, & was buried at Halton. GEORGINA SARAH, born Jan<sup>y</sup> 13. 1805, who died in 1820, & was buried at Vaumain near Gilor in France. AUGUSTA born June 9. 1810. who married James Montcrief Melville Esq<sup>r</sup> of Hanley, Costorphine, Cy of Edinburgh, she died in Childbirth, leaving issue two sons and two daughters."

On a slab fixed to the exterior wall of the north chancel of Hanley Church :—

“Here lyeth the body of Jane the wife of William Parsons Gentleman, and youngest Daughter of Edmund Lechmere of Hanly Castle Esq<sup>r</sup> Who Departed this Life the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January An<sup>o</sup> 1694, aged 65.

“Here lyeth the Body of William Parsons Gentleman, who departed This Life, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January Ano 1694. aged 65.  
To fulfill the will of the Deceased Jane Parsons, they were both laid in This place of the church yard.”

On a mural monument on the south side of the nave :—

“To the Glory of God, and in affectionate memory of the Rev: Anthony Berwick Lechmere, M.A. Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral and for 39 years Vicar of this parish of Hanley Castle, who departed this life Oct viii, A.D. MDCCCLXXVIII. aged 76 years. Faithful to his Divine Master: devoted to his flock, beloved by all. His parishioners and friends of all classes erected this monument as a tribute to his worth and a lasting record of their deep regard.”

On a coped tomb near the south door of the church, on the north side :—

“In memory of Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere Baronet,  
who died April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856. aged 63 years.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Matt v. 8.  
In Thy Presence, Lord, is fulness of joy. At thy right hand there are pleasures for ever more. Ps. xxi. ii.

The memory of the just is blessed.”

## On the south side :—

“Here lies the body of The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Maria Clara Widow of Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere, Baronet.

who died Jan<sup>y</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1865, aged 77 years.

Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.”

Rev : ii. 10.

## On an adjoining tomb :—

“William Henry Lechmere Esquire, Born October 15<sup>th</sup> 1825, died March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1857.”

“Sarah Lechmere, Born May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1788. died February 13<sup>th</sup> 1862.”

## On a large flat granite tomb, in the north-western part of Hanley churchyard :—

“Emily-Mary Lechmere. Born 3, March 1810. Died 18<sup>th</sup> March 1869.  
Watch. Mark xiii. 37.”

“Anthony Berwick Lechmere, for 39 years the devoted and beloved  
Vicar of this Parish. Who departed this life, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1878.  
Faithful unto death.”

“Eliza Anne Wall Born Aug : 11<sup>th</sup> 1789. Died Dec. 26 1875.”

In Hanley-Castle Church are several windows inscribed to the memory of members of the Lechmere family : the great west window of the south or principal aisle bears the following inscription ; it represents the Last Judgment :—

“To the glory of God. and in memory of Sir Anthony Lechmere Baronet, and Mary his wife, this window was erected by their daughters Sarah and Eliza. Christmas MDCCCLX.”

## On a small south-west window :—

“Erected by Thomas B. King in affectionate remembrance of Dame Eleanor Lechmere, Widow of Sir Anthony Lechmere, Bart : Rhyd Court, Upton on Severn. Buried at Weston super Mare. Sep<sup>tr</sup> 1. 1857.”

On the east window of the south chancel, representing the Crucifixion :—

“ To the glory of God, and in memory of Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere Baronet, who died April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1856.”

On the west window of the north aisle :—

“ To the glory of God this window is erected by the parishioners in affectionate remembrance of Emily-Mary, wife of the Rev. Anthony Berwick Lechmere, Vicar of this parish. She died March 10. 1869.”

On the north window of the same aisle :—

“ In affectionate memory of Emily-Mary Lechmere this window is dedicated by the children of her two sisters.”

FINIS.

2 2







